Daily Report

East Europe

FBIS-EEU-91-013
Friday
18 January 1991

Daily Report
East Europe

FBIS-EEU-91-013 *18 January 1991*

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: As of 2 January 1991, television sourcelines in the DAILY REPORT will reflect how a station identifies itself. In most cases, this change eliminates the "Television Service" designation in favor of the station identification as broadcast. The presence of a new television sourceline reflects this change in policy, rather than the establishment of a new station or network.

NOTICE TO READERS: • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

ALBANIA

Foreign Ministry Statement on Start of Gulf War *[Tirana Radio]* 1
PPSh Bribery at Democratic Party Rally Alleged *[ZERI I POPULLIT 12 Jan]* 1
Gjoni, Kondi Replaced in Tirana PPSh Posts *[ATA]* 1
Decree Issued on Postponement of Elections *[Tirana Radio]* 1
Opposition Leader Discusses Political Situation *[Hamburg DIE WELT 17 Jan]* 2
BRPSh Commission To Review Party Statutes *[ZERI I RINISE 19 Dec]* 2
Council of Ministers Drafts Strike Law *[Tirana Radio]* 3
Alia on 'Exceptional' Economic Situation *[Tirana Radio]* 3

BULGARIA

President Zhelev Statement on Gulf Crisis *[Sofia Radio]* 5
War Necessary To Safeguard Peace *[BTA]* 5
Comments by Party Figures *[BTA]* 5
Vulkov Meets Envoys of Security Council Members *[BTA]* 6
Counterterrorism Unit Working 'Round-the-Clock' *[BTA]* 6
Interior Ministry on 'Alert' *[BTA]* 6
Civil Defense Training Announced *[Sofia Radio]* 6
TV Poll Reveals Gulf Support *[BTA]* 7
SDS MP's To Send Delegation to Lithuania *[BTA]* 7
Party Daily Condemns 'Armored' Perestroyka *[DUMA 15 Jan]* 7
NATO's Arms Transfer Policy Examined *[NARODNA ARMIYA 11 Jan]* 8
Chief of Staff Gives Figures on Army's Strength *[NARODNA ARMIYA 11 Jan]* 9
SDS Parliamentary Group Cochairmen Interviewed *[DEMOKRATSIYA 11 Jan]* 9
Consequences of Lukanov's Moscow Loyalty Decried *[SVOBODEN NAROD 11 Jan]* 10
Council Discusses Personnel Reductions *[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK 11 Jan]* 11
Kozloduy Power Unit Taken Out of Operation *[Sofia Radio]* 11
Popov Urges Castro To Observe Trade Agreement *[BTA]* 11
Third Round of Talks With IMF Opened *[BTA]* 12
Foreign Relations Expert on Price Increases *[OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK 10 Jan]* 12
Trade Union Leader Optimistic About Peace Pact *[BTA]* 13
New Members of Grand National Assembly Profiled *[DUMA 15 Jan]* 13
Turkish Language Lessons in Schools Discussed *[DUMA 10 Jan]* 13

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Havel, Calfa Attend Defense Council Meeting *[Prague Radio]* 14
More on Meeting *[Prague Radio]* 14
Calfa Comments on Country's Stance in Gulf War *[Prague Radio]* 14
Federal Government Issues Statement on Gulf War *[Prague Radio]* 14
Dienstbier Says 'Iraq Will Not Win' Gulf War *[CTK]* 14
Dienstbier Interviewed *[Prague Radio]* 15
Dienstbier Adviser Interviewed *[Prague Radio]* 16
Parties Back Action Against Iraqi 'Dictatorship' *[Prague Radio]* 16
Customs Staff Armed; Border Checks Stricter *[Prague Radio]* 16

Agreement With Saudis on Army Unity Ratified *[CTK]* 16
Meciar on Influx of Soviets, Constitutional Setup *[CTK]* 17
Debate on Dam Project With Hungary Continues *[NARODNA OBRODA 10 Jan]* 17
Party of Neutrality Active Once Again *[Bratislava PRAVDA 16 Jan]* 17
Press on Terms of IMF Loan, World Bank Loan *[MLADA FRONTA DNES 10 Jan, etc.]* 17
Socialist Party Elects New Chairman 13 Jan *[CTK]* 18
Publishing House Concludes International Agreement *[SVOBODNE SLOVO 10 Jan]* 19
Czech Prime Minister Gives Weekly Interview *[Prague Radio]* 19
Civic Forum Elects Two Deputy Chairmen *[NARODNA OBRODA 16 Jan]* 20
Moravian, Silesian Movement Leaves Coalition *[CTK]* 20
Ministries' Make Statement on Bata Property *[NARODNA OBRODA 11 Jan]* 21
Slovak Deputies Critical of Presidential Proposals *[Bratislava PRAVDA 10 Jan]* 21
Slovak Communists on Situation in Lithuania, Gulf *[CTK]* 22
Ministry Statement on Unemployment in Slovakia *[NARODNA OBRODA 10 Jan]* 23

HUNGARY

Antall Says Government 'Prepared' for Gulf War *[MTI]* 24
Queried on Government Stance *[Budapest Radio]* 24
President Hopes For Short War, 'Lasting Peace' *[Budapest Radio]* 25
Government Issues Statement on Gulf War *[MTI]* 25
Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Gulf Crisis *[Budapest Radio]* 26
Security Tightened at Airports, Power Plants *[MTI]* 26
Antiterrorist Units on 'Higher Level of Alert' *[NEPSZABADSAG 16 Jan]* 27
Civilian Forces Alerted Against Terrorist Attacks *[MTI]* 27
National Assembly To Tighten Security Measures *[MTI]* 28
Jeszenszky Summons Soviet Envoy; Lithuania Viewed *[MTI]* 28
MDF News Conference Views Gulf, Lithuania *[Budapest Radio]* 28

POLAND

Prime Minister Comments on Gulf War Impact *[PAP]* 29
Skubiszewski Issues Statement on Gulf War *[Warsaw Radio]* 29
Minister on Gulf, Baltics, Soviet Troop Pullout *[Warsaw Radio]* 29
Skubiszewski Meets Ambassadors of Baltic States *[PAP]* 29
Government Spokesman Issues Statement on Lithuania *[PAP]* 29
Commentary Examines Gorbachev's Role in Lithuania *['C.B.' in ZYCIE WARSZAWY 15 Jan]* 30
President Walesa's Foreign Trips Postponed *[Warsaw Radio]* 30
National Defense Minister on Army Budget, Gulf *[POLSKA ZBROJNA 14 Jan]* 30
Prime Minister Interviewed on Government's Future *[RZECZPOSPOLITA 10 Jan]* 32
Walesa Appoints Secretary of State, 2 Envoys *[PAP]* 34
Television Official Describes New Programming *[PAP]* 34
TV Editors Resign Over New Chairman's Remarks *[Warsaw TV]* 35
New Director Named *[Warsaw TV]* 35

ROMANIA

Iliescu Chairs Supreme Defense Council Meeting *[ROMPRES]* 36
Foreign Ministry on Protecting Citizens in Gulf *[ROMPRES]* 36
Domestic Activities During Gulf War Discussed *[ROMPRES]* 36
PNT-cd Supports Action Against Iraq *[ROMPRES]* 36
Past Dialogue Attempt With Iraq Acknowledged *[ROMPRES]* 37
Roman's Reliance on Soviet Markets Criticized *[DREPTATEA 10 Jan]* 37
Iliescu Views Visits to PRC, India, Pakistan *[ROMPRES]* 37
State Secretary Meets Heads of State in Guatemala *[ROMPRES]* 37
Report on June Events Ready for Council of Europe *[ROMPRES]* 38
Timisoara Newspaper Threatens To Halt Publication *[ROMANIA LIBERA 10 Jan]* 38
Timisoara Prefect, Aides Renounce Resignation *[ROMPRES]* 38
Ex-King's Press Bureau Communique on Citizenship *[DREPTATEA 10 Jan]* 38
* Jiu Valley Miners Call For National Union *[REALITATEA ROMANEASCA 1 Dec]* 38
Economic Official on First Results of Reform *[ROMPRES]* 39

YUGOSLAVIA

Appeal to Saddam To Withdraw From Kuwait *[TANJUG]* 40
Government Issues Declaration on Gulf War *[TANJUG]* 40
Comments by Croatian President *[TANJUG]* 40
Zelenovic Asked To Form New Government *[VJESNIK 16 Jan]* 41
Thirty-Five Citizens Still Remain in Iraq *[Belgrade Radio]* 41
Working Group Assembly on Country's Setup *[BORBA 10 Jan]* 41
Peterle on Chances of Federal Army Intervention *[OSLOBODJENJE 13 Jan]* 41
Markovic Begins Tour of Republics *[TANJUG]* 42
Alliance of Socialist Parties Founded 16 Jan *[TANJUG]* 42
Statement on Macedonians in Bulgaria, Greece *[TANJUG]* 43
Serbian National Assembly Elects Officials *[TANJUG]* 43
Slovenian Independence Articles 'Annulled' *[TANJUG]* 43
Croatian Serbs Refuse Tudjman-Milosevic Deal *[VJESNIK 10 Jan]* 43
Slovene, Croat Delegations Meet at Otocec *[VECERNJI LIST 10 Jan]* 44
Knin Serbs Return Stolen Weapons to Authorities *[Belgrade Radio]* 44
Municipal Assembly Report *[TANJUG]* 44
Croatian LC Coordination Committee Founded *[TANJUG]* 45
Croatian Democrats' Leader on Military Affairs *[TANJUG]* 45
Bosnia-Hercegovina Communists Hold Session *[BORBA 10 Jan]* 45
Sarajevo, Mostar Regional Radio, TV Plans *[TANJUG]* 45
Iran Ready To Deliver Oil at World Prices *[TANJUG]* 45

Foreign Ministry Statement on Start of Gulf War

AU1701153091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1430 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by the Foreign Ministry spokesman; place and date not given]

[Text] Albania has followed with particular interest the efforts of the international community to solve the Gulf crisis in a peaceful way. With the start of military action, the serious Gulf crisis has entered a new and more dangerous phase. The continuation of the war in such a (?sensitive) area also imperils international peace and stability. Albania favors an avoidance of any escalation of this war, a cease-fire, and the earliest possible withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait in the interests of the Iraqi people themselves, other peoples, and the reestablishment of peace in the region. We hope there will be no lack of efforts on the part of the entire international community to solve the conflict in a peaceful way, thus avoiding bloodshed and innocent victims. The Albanian Government hopes that the chances of peace have still not been lost, even now that the war has begun.

PPSh Bribery at Democratic Party Rally Alleged

AU1701140291 Tirana ZERI I POPULLIT in Albanian 12 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with Lushnke Plastics Factory director Ibrahim Toshkezi by Sotiraq Gjordeni; place and date not given: " You Cannot Go Far With Slander"]

[Text] In Wednesday's [9 January] issue of RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE, a typically sensational article states that a manager had promised workers 500 leks if they shouted for the Albanian Workers Party [PPSh].

What is the truth? To find out, we turned to Ibrahim Toshkezi, director of the Lushnje Plastics Factory.

[Toshkezi] I do not think that any honest person, whether he knows me or not, will swallow this propaganda trick of Bujar Xhaferi. It is a fabrication from beginning to end. Why was it published? This is not a worry for Ibrahim; it is a worry for the PPSh. Such writings harm it. For the sake of the truth, it must be added that on the day the Democratic Party rally was held in Lushnje, I was in Tirana and returned in the afternoon for a meeting of the Technical Council. When I reply to questions about the details of such things, I say: Are such slanders worth considering? That is what I say, not to save Ibrahim's honor but the PPSh's.

[Gjordeni] What was the reaction in your collective when this article was published?

[Toshkezi] Before talking about the collective, let me say that I met the author of the article, who, instead of arguing with evidence, said: "We have several statements from workers." He may have statements, but, on the basis of the most elementary morality, I asked him to come to the factory to meet the workers face to face. He told me that he "would come on 10 January with the chief editor of RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE." As you can see, they did not come. Why? They know themselves. As for the factory workers, I can tell you that on the day the article was published, they assembled and prepared a letter to be sent to various addresses, including that of RILINDJA DEMOKRATIKE. I would like to see the reply of my collective published in the pages of that newspaper. They reply with seriousness to the slander of certain persons who seek to use sensations to gain political credit. Finally, I would like to add that, according to all the regulations, I have a citizen's legitimate right to denounce the author of the article to the appropriate organ for slander. We are all equal before the law.

Gjoni, Kondi Replaced in Tirana PPSh Posts

AU1701142691 Tirana ATA in English 0955 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Unattributed report from the "Press Review"; place and date not given]

[Text] "ZERI I POPULLIT" reports that the plenum of Tirana District Party Committee [of the Albanian Workers Party, PPSh] which discussed on the latest developments, convened on January 16. The plenum released Comrade Xhelil Gjoni from the duty of the first secretary of the District Party Committee and appointed to this post Robert Koli. Likewise Ismail Lleshi was appointed secretary of this committee while Pirro Kondi was released from this duty as he retired.

Decree Issued on Postponement of Elections

AU1701172891 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1700 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Unattributed report: "Decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania on the Postponement of the People's Assembly Elections"]

[Text] At the request of the parties and social and political organizations as electoral participants, in connection with the situation which has arisen, and to enable recently created parties to field their candidates in the elections of deputies for the 12th Legislature of the People's Assembly—on the basis of Articles 68 and 77 of the Constitution and Article 45 of Law No. 7,428 on elections for the People's Assembly dated 13 November 1990—the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania decrees:

1. The elections of deputies for the 12th Legislature of the People's Assembly will be postponed until Sunday, 31 March 1991.

2. The opportunity will be created for representatives of the new political parties, at their request, to join the Central Electoral Commission and the constituency and polling station commissions.

3. This decree comes into effect immediately.

Tirana, 17 January 1991. Decree No. 7,456.

For the Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania:

[Signed] Ramiz Alia, president; Sihat Tozaj, secretary.

Opposition Leader Discusses Political Situation

AU1701122291 Hamburg DIE WELT in German 17 Jan 91 p 7

[E. Antonaros report: "Tirana Makes Concessions Only to Preserve Its Power"]

[Text] Tirana—Through "a policy of artificial tension and intimidation," which it is pursuing with "Stalinist methods of the worse kind," Albania's ruling Communist Party wants to keep the democratization process in the most dogmatic country of Europe under control. This accusation was made by leading opposition politician Sali Berisha in an interview with DIE WELT in Tirana. "The strategy of tension is the biggest problem we have to struggle against," the 46-year-old cardiology professor at Tirana University, said. Berisha belongs to the leading body of the "Democratic Party" (DP) [PDSh], Albania's first and most important opposition group.

As the clearest proof of the fact that the ruling [Albanian] Workers Party [PPSh] considers the democratization process only as a means to preserve power, Berisha cited the stubborn refusal by state and party chief Ramiz Alia to postpone the election date of 10 February for three months. "While the Communists are prepared for everything, we have neither the means nor the experience to organize the party within such a short period." The opposition has practically no access to the mass media, which are controlled by the state, has few district organizations, and hardly any organizational experience. The 15-person supreme Party Body, therefore, whose strong man is seen as Berisha, has already decided: "We will boycott the elections if the government sticks to its decision."

The PDSh leadership wants to protest against the Communists with peaceful means, "above all sit-in's and mass rallies." "The Communists, however, will then be responsible for the political instability, which will be the consequence if we boycott the elections," PDSh spokesman Genc Pollo, a 27-year-old archaeologist, who speaks German fluently, explained.

The PDSh, which was founded in mid-September and is the best-organized opposition party of Albania with allegedly 26,000 registered members, thinks it can benefit from the in-fighting in the Communist Party. "The conservative lobby is still very strong. There are differently oriented groups that are fighting each other," Berisha said, who calls head of state Alia a "realist who is ready for dialogue."

The cardiologist, who certainly was among the Albanian nomenklatura until recently—otherwise he would not have had any chance of studying in Paris under Enver Hoxha's Stalinist system—did not discuss any details. Last weekend [12-13 January] differences in opinion became obvious again: When during the talks with Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis about the fate of the Greek minority no agreement was achieved at first, Foreign Minister Reis Malile had the failure of the talks announced. Two hours later he was called back by Alia.

Albania's Communists, however, agree on the most important points of their future course. The election platform of the PPSh does speak of political pluralism, but it neither contains a dissociation from Marxism nor a distancing from Hoxha's Stalinist government methods nor any readiness for economic reforms in the direction of a market economy.

What the PDSh and the other three new but smaller parties say sounds completely different: "They are for a free market economy and real pluralism," Berisha affirmed. He categorically rejects the suspicion, which is also rampant among Western diplomats, that he heads a "tame opposition": The list of harassments that they are suffering is very long," he said without wanting to give any details. He rejects a "dynamic confrontation" with the regime: "We want to stay tough in the matter, but we want to try to implement the reforms step by step"; otherwise, a chaotic situation might ensue.

BRPSh Commission To Review Party Statutes

AU1701180191 Tirana ZERI I RINISE in Albanian 19 Dec 90 p 2

[Declaration of the Union of Albanian Working Youth to the Youth and All the Albanian People; place and date not given]

[Text] The Albanian Union of Working Youth [BRPSh] welcomes the decisions of the 13th party Central Committee plenum and the elevation of the process of democratization to the level of political pluralism, whose establishment shows that this process of democratization is irreversible.

The BRPSh strongly supports Comrade Ramiz Alia's message to the Albanian people as a document of great importance for Albania's present and future.

The BRPSh strongly condemns the acts of vandalism and destruction carried out in some cities of the country and demands that their culprits should be held responsible under the law.

The BRPSh issues a call to follow the road of civilized dialogue as the only way of solving problems and the road which stems from the nature of pluralist democracy. It calls on everybody to respect the law, beyond which there is neither democracy or stability, but only anarchy and destruction.

The BRPSh calls on all the country's working people, especially young people, to set to work with all their energies, because there is no democracy without work. Now more than ever, Albania needs the contribution of everybody, workers, cooperativists, intellectuals, schoolchildren, students, and soldiers.

The BRPSh appreciates the moderation and correctness of the forces of order which have been placed in defense of democratic processes and the free life of citizens, but at the same time asks them to act vigorously against all vandalist and terrorist acts.

The BRPSh appeals to all the young people of Albania to tighten the ranks of their organization as an independent social organization which unites all categories of young people and expresses and protects their interests.

The BRPSh calls on all citizens, cadres, communists, lecturers, teachers, parents, and veterans to exert all their influence on young people to tighten the ranks of the BRPSh, as a powerful and important factor in uniting the younger generation and bringing them closer to each other.

The BRPSh expresses the trust that all the young people of Albania, their activists and managing cadres, and all the people will contribute to fulfilling, as well as possible, the historic mission of our organization in the new political situation through which the country is passing.

Commission for Reviewing the BRPSh's Statute

1. Lisen Bashkurti, chairman, candidate of sciences.
2. Mimoza Jazoj, secretary.
3. Ali Lacej, member.
4. Artan Fuga, member, candidate of sciences.
5. Beqir Basha, member.
6. Fatmir Xhafa, member.
7. Ilirjan Zhupa, member, poet.
8. Ilir Kerni, member, meritorious artist.
9. Maqo Lakrori, member, doctor of sciences.
10. Klementina Dika, member, journalist.
11. Koco Kokedhima, member.
12. Lulezim Hoxha, member.
13. Remzi Lani, member, journalist.
14. Pavlina Evro, member, distinguished sportswoman.
15. Xhezair Zaganjori, member, candidate of sciences.

Council of Ministers Drafts Strike Law

AU1701163891

[Editorial Report] Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian at 1430 GMT on 17 January carries a seven-minute live or recorded interview with Genc Kondi, press spokesman for the Council of Ministers conducted by Zamire Koleci.

Kondi states: "I can report on a number of draft decrees that the government has prepared and sent for approval to the Presidium of the People's Assembly, connected mainly with current problems. The first draft decree regulates by law an activity that has not yet been provided for in our legislation—i.e. work stoppages or strikes. So far, our legislation has not included legal provisions for the right to strike. The practices of foreign countries have been borne in mind, and it was said that foreign legislation covers strikes—i.e. the mass stoppage of work for a certain time with the aim of enforcing working people's demands relating to their employment. Specifically, this draft decree, which has been prepared by the Council of Ministers, recognizes working people's right to strike. Of course, a strike must be organized by a specific body, which may be a professional organization or a body authorized by the workers who are announcing a strike. This draft decree first outlines the regulations for announcing a strike, including the fact that a majority of the workers—more than 50 percent—must vote for the strike. As a rule, 15 days prior notice must be given. The decree provides for the length of strikes: For instance, it emphasizes that the first strike, held for the first time, cannot last more than one working day." "The draft decree covers the place where a strike may take place, the number of participants in it, and cases where strikes are not allowed or may be interrupted. Of course, strikes of workers in vital, extremely vital, sectors are either forbidden or are allowed under this draft decree only if the continuation of the work process is guaranteed—i.e. if the workers take the proper measures to ensure this, as in the supply of food or raw materials, or in emergency health care."

Kondi states that a second draft decree concerns "financial policy." "A third draft decree concerns a demand, which we have often heard recently, for the early retirement of workers who have completed (?many) years at work, but who still have not reached the (?normal) retirement age."

Kondi states that "a further draft decree provides for the expansion of private activity in all sectors of the economy. It foresees its expansion in the retail sector, handicrafts, and services." "The idea is that this decree will be approved by the Presidium of the People's Assembly to create conditions for the privatization of a range of retail outlets, and, in the future, the transfer of all services and handicrafts to the private sector."

Alia on 'Exceptional' Economic Situation

AU1701215491 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Speech by Comrade Ramiz Alia, chairman of the Presidium of the Peoples Assembly; place and date not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades, you were informed yesterday of the agreement reached between the party and the country's political and social organizations in connection with the elections for the People's Assembly and the call to avoid social conflicts. Today, you were also made aware of the decree of the Presidium of the People's Assembly for postponing the election date until 31

March 1991. The conclusion of the agreement and this decree are a valuable contribution to the successful accomplishment of the democratic process. The achievement of a consensus on such important issues must also be considered a test of how we solve the problems facing the country through constructive dialogue.

The agreement, however, is only the start of the task. Its value must be tested in its correct enforcement. It can only be realized with honest work, a sincere contribution, trust, and mutual help. If we start with this preoccupation, which we must have in the serious situation in which the country finds itself, with the desire to establish genuine pluralist democracy [words indistinct] progress and prosperity; if we put the interests of the homeland above party and personal interests, and work with conviction and will to achieve the objectives laid down in the agreement, (?we will lack for nothing).

It is natural, dear comrades, that different opinions should be expressed among you over the best way to hold the elections, whether as had been planned, or to postpone them. There may be many arguments pro and con; however, the important thing in such cases is how to find the best solutions—solutions that which lead to understanding and not division, toward unity rather than rifts among the people. Stubbornness and egotism of whatever nature are poor counselors in such matters.

Albania is presently undergoing a great political, economic, social, and cultural transformation. This gives rise to tensions and sometimes even friction. It depends on political wisdom whether these tensions are reduced or are transformed into blazing conflicts. It is precisely this wisdom that should characterize and guide all those in whom the people have placed their trust and hope. We must all become aware as soon as possible that the destabilization of the country, whether political or economic, would have very serious consequences, not to say catastrophic. Albania is a small country with limited material and hard currency reserves and with little room for maneuver in the economic field. For us, a dry summer is enough to upset the equilibrium created over the years. The situation will worsen if we do not work and produce. The things that some people say, without a shred of responsibility, that we must do things like this or like that, that foreign aid will cover for us, or that a ready-to-eat lunch cooked by someone else will come to us without the need to work, are empty dreams.

The economy is the epicenter of many problems. Helping it recover must be a primary preoccupation for everybody, all working people and citizens. The exceptional situation that prevails in the economy is evident in shortages of raw materials and the low capacity use in many branches of industry, the lack of work for tens of thousands of workers who are paid without producing, significant shortages of some staple consumer goods, and reductions of exports, while demands for imports are rising. It is not the time to discuss the causes of this situation. It is now urgent to find ways to overcome it as soon as possible. Bewilderment and confusion among the people and the incitement of [word indistinct] for party political ends will lead us down a blind alley, from which it will become ever more difficult to emerge.

We must be realistic. Prosperity can only be achieved through work. We are presently compelled to use every source of earnings at our disposal, whether at home or abroad, to secure raw materials for industry and the basic items for daily consumption. The aim is to secure work and wages for our workers.

In today's situation, all working people must think as patriots and citizens about the difficulties through which we are passing. It is not difficult to see that when production and productivity are falling, demanding wage increases means fueling inflation and unemployment, and restricts the possibilities of emerging from the exceptional situation. Today, when the general study of wages and prices has not been completed, the demands of individual collectives, even when they are justified, can only be met at the expense of the prosperity of other working people in the towns and the countryside. Presently, our lack of financial and hard currency resources and our inflation does not leave room for meeting demands for wage increases for any category of workers or social strata; therefore, the only alternative is to mobilize people in work and to boost production.

Dear comrades, let us set to work with the honesty that has characterized the Albanian, with the conviction that he is working for himself and his family and to safeguard the homeland and its progress. Let political debate and dialogue and the electoral campaign now in progress serve to strengthen the unity of our people, and not to divide them. Let this (?campaign) on which we are embarking serve to further develop the culture and civilization of Albania, and to make Albania's voice clearer and more respected in the world. I have a great deal of hope that the country will overcome the difficulties facing it, because I have faith in your wisdom, determination, and great creative energies. Above all, I have confidence in the ardent patriotism of our people, who have always placed the lofty interests of the homeland above everything. Allow me to express the assurance that, at the present stage, this will be the [word indistinct] that will lead us in avoiding conflicts of all kinds and in curing the situation.

President Zhelev Statement on Gulf Crisis

AU1701172491 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Declaration by President Zhelyu Zhelev, "On the Beginning of Military Actions in the Persian Gulf Area" in Sofia on 17 January—recorded]

[Text] I am very concerned about the beginning of military actions in the Persian Gulf area. Our concern is intensified by the fact that this conflict is developing in the vicinity of our country.

The responsibility for the outbreak of the conflict lies with the Iraqi leadership, which with the occupation and annexation of Kuwait grossly violated the fundamental principles and norms of international law, refused to take into consideration the clearly expressed opinion of worldwide public opinion, refused to implement the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council, Resolution No. 678 included, and refused to give a constructive response to the numerous peace initiatives.

All possibilities for achieving a peaceful settlement for the Persian Gulf were explored. Under the existing situation, the adoption of armed action, despite the great risks, is an extreme, but necessary measure for guaranteeing international peace, a measure based on the UN Charter. This applies especially to the case when the security of a small state is threatened.

Throughout the period following the illegal occupation of Kuwait by Iraq, the Republic of Bulgaria actively supported the efforts of the international community for the political settlement of the conflict. Our country supported all UN Security Council resolutions on this question. It wholeheartedly joined the international embargo against Iraq although this cost our country a great deal and prevented our country from overcoming the harsh economic crisis.

The Republic of Bulgaria takes advantage of the opportunity in order to stress once more that it has adopted a position of principle, stating that peace in the Gulf area cannot be achieved without the total and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from the territory of the state of Kuwait.

The sovereignty, the territorial integrity, and the legitimate government of Kuwait must be restored in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

The Republic of Bulgaria will support the multinational forces for the achievement of the aforementioned goals, and it stresses again its readiness declared on several occasions to contribute with all efforts and means in accordance with the decision of the Grand National Assembly.

At the same time we express the hope that the military actions will be promptly be followed by peaceful steps for settling the controversial questions between Iraq and Kuwait through diplomatic means.

The Republic of Bulgaria is and will remain a friend of the Arab peoples, the people of Iraq included. It will continue to devote its future efforts to the comprehensive development of relations and mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries of the area.

War Necessary To Safeguard Peace

AU1701154791 Sofia BTA in English 1503 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—In a televised statement today Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the Republic of Bulgaria, described the military operations against Iraq as an "extreme but necessary measure to safeguard international peace, consistent with the UN Charter."

The Bulgarian president recalled that hostilities were launched after all opportunities for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf Crisis were tried. He stressed that the responsibility rests entirely with the Iraqi leadership whose occupation and annexation of Kuwait violated fundamental principles and standards of international law and refused to comply with the demands of the international community and to implement the UN Security Council resolutions.

President Zhelev voiced concern over the outbreak of a military conflict close to Bulgaria's borders and expressed the hope that the war will be short. He confirmed Bulgaria's principled position that peace in the region cannot be achieved without the complete and unconditional withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait and without the restoration of the sovereignty, the territorial integrity and the legitimate government of Kuwait in accordance with the Security Council resolutions.

The Bulgarian head of state declared that Bulgaria supports the actions of the multinational forces to attain these goals and reiterated the readiness repeatedly expressed by this country to help by all possible means, as resolved by the Bulgarian Parliament.

"The Republic of Bulgaria is and will be a friend of the Arab peoples, the people of Iraq included. It will keep working for the all-round promotion of mutually advantageous cooperation with all countries in the region," the president of the Republic said, winding up his televised statement.

Comments by Party Figures

AU1701180691 Sofia BTA in English 1737 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—"The faster and the more victorious will be the war in the Persian Gulf for the multinational forces, the greater chance there is for democracy," Mr. Mikhail Nedelchev, spokesman for the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), told the BTA.

He said that the Bulgarian opposition received with satisfaction the news about the successful attack on the army of Saddam Husayn. "The army of Saddam Husayn and not of the Iraqi people," Mr. Nedelchev emphasized.

The SDS is also excited by the opportunity to provide at long last world guarantees for the integrity and the national inviolability of a small and peace-loving state as Kuwait.

Mr. Dimitur Yonchev, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP), told the BTA that his party declares itself in favour of the independence and sovereignty of any country and firmly supports the UN positions on the aggression in Kuwait.

"Once there was no other way and things went so far as a military conflict, we believe that it should be localized," Mr. Yonchev said. "We hope that it all will end with a political settlement."

Mr. Yonchev expressed the opinion that no matter how events there may unfold, a new cycle is emerging in international relations. There is a shift of value priorities. "We must already reckon with a new world which makes possible this type of crisis management."

Mr. Yonchev, who is a military expert, does not think that the Gulf War bears any resemblance to the Vietnam war or to the operation in Panama and believes that it has no analogue in world history: 28 countries uniting in a search of a solution to the problem.

According to Mr. Ahmed Dogan, leader of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms, the conjuncture of events in Lithuania and the Persian Gulf may whet the appetites of certain quarters in Bulgaria to intensify their actions in a purely nationalist aspect. If oil deliveries are guaranteed, the Gulf War will have no direct bearing on Bulgaria, Mr. Dogan believes. He would be glad if Bulgaria maintains active neutrality in this situation.

Vulkov Meets Envoys of Security Council Members

AU1701175891 Sofia BTA in English 1733 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—Mr. Viktor Vulkov, minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, today had a meeting with the leaders of the diplomatic missions of the five UN Security Council permanent member-countries represented in Bulgaria.

The diplomats were handed President Zhelyu Zhelev's declaration made in connection with the beginning of the military operations in the Persian Gulf. They were also reminded of the government's declaration on the Gulf crisis.

Minister Vulkov emphasized the consistent position of Bulgaria which supports the actions of the international forces taken up in compliance with the Security Council resolutions after all means for finding a political solution to the crisis have been exhausted. Bulgaria is ready to take part in a possible session of the UN Security Council, at which her representative will support the actions of the world organization.

Counterterrorism Unit Working 'Round-the-Clock'

AU1701142991 Sofia BTA in English 1343 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Emergency Counter-Terrorism Measures"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—The diplomatic staff of the Israeli mission in Sofia was evacuated from the mission headquarters several days ago after an Iraqi-registered car was noticed parked in immediate proximity to the mission.

Colonel Ivan Boyadzhiev, chief of the Counterterrorism Service at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, disclosed this to the press at a news conference here today. The car proved safe but the investigation of the case continues, the colonel said. He did not rule out the possibility that it might have been a terrorist act "rehearsal."

The counter-terrorism service has switched over to round-the-clock operation and the security forces have been placed on a heightened state of readiness. Along with guarding foreign missions and other vital installations, the security forces plan to make special security arrangements for the European figure skating championships which are starting in a couple of days here.

Colonel Boyadzhiev called on the public to report anything suspicious to the police.

Interior Ministry on 'Alert'

AU1701132491 Sofia BTA in English 1256 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—The units of the Ministry of the Interior are on the alert to perform the tasks which the National Staff on the Gulf Crisis assigned them. Increased measures are taken to provide the security of the foreign diplomatic, commercial, economic and other missions in Bulgaria as well as the security of energy, transport, communication and other economic systems essential for the country. Border, passport and address control is increased, the ministry announced. So far the situation in Bulgaria is quiet.

The start of military operations in the Gulf, however, creates conditions for the broadening and the deepening of the conflict's consequences. They may affect Bulgaria as well, the announcement says.

The ministry recommends the foreign residents on Bulgarian territory to avoid leaving their registered domiciles.

Civil Defense Training Announced

AU1701212591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 2100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In connection with the situation that has arisen in the Persian Gulf region and the possible danger to the life and health of the population, the Civil Defense Headquarters informs the population that it has taken measures for increased preparedness and protection.

All oblast and municipal leaderships have been instructed to hold practice exercises, with the participation of workers, office employees, and the remainder of the population, on recognizing the warning signals for the different kinds of dangers and on developing the ability to protect themselves. Announcements on the kinds of danger will be made with the aid of warning sirens, the national radio and television, and through local radio links.

TV Poll Reveals Gulf Support

AU1701134191 Sofia BTA in English 1245 GMT 17 Jan 91

["First Reaction to the Events in the Gulf: "A War for Peace"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—"This is a war for peace," stated on TV Mr. Ivaylo Trifonov, head of the President's Office, in connection with the war in the Gulf. He confirmed Bulgaria's attitude of support of the UN Security Council's resolutions.

Mr. Trifonov pointed out once again that Bulgaria is ready to give medical aid to the multi-national forces.

A poll conducted among TV viewers and radio listeners showed that Bulgarians perceive the war as a war for peace, for justice and for the protection of a small country. They consider the UN Security Council's resolutions correct and the U.S. actions justified. Americans are right, Saddam Husayn is a fanatic, he shouldn't have invaded Kuwait, people say. Most of the respondents do not approve of war and violence in principle.

SDS MP's To Send Delegation to Lithuania

AU1701214291 Sofia BTA in English 2107 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—A delegation of the parliamentary opposition is leaving for Lithuania.

Today the parliamentary faction of the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) [SDS] moved for sending a delegation of parliamentarians representing all political forces to the Lithuanian Parliament in connection with the latest developments in that country.

After the majority of the Bulgarian Socialist Party voted down the motion, the co-chairman of the UDF parliamentary group, Dr. Petur Dertliev, stated that the UDF would send its own delegation to Lithuania. The spokesmen for the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS) and the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) stated the parliamentary groups of the BZNS and the MRF support the idea of sending a delegation to that country and that they would send their representatives to Vilnius.

Today it became known that a proposal had been presented to the Bureau of the Grand National Assembly that was signed by more than 100 MP's [member's of parliament]: It is insisted that Bulgaria should recognize the independence of Lithuania and that steps should be taken for establishing diplomatic relations with her. The proposal has not been considered yet.

Party Daily Condemns 'Armored' Perestroyka

AU1701154991 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Jan 91 p 1

[Radoslav Velev commentary: "There Can Be No 'Armored' Perestroyka"]

[Text] For the time being the tragic events in Lithuania are incomparable to the defeat of the Hungarian insurrection in 1956 and the invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. The bloodshed in Vilnius, however, has much in common with the "armored" retributions of Khrushchev and Brezhnev in the "socialist camp" of yore. This is the most terrible and alarming thing.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the creator of perestroyka and the new political thinking in the USSR, publicly dissociated himself from and rejected the shameful "Brezhnev doctrine" on applying armed force against those Warsaw Pact countries that dare to turn to independence and democracy. It is unclear what role the Soviet president, who recently received broadest prerogatives, played in the action of the Soviet military units in Vilnius. Did the Generals exceed their prerogatives and act behind Gorbachev's back? The president's statement disseminated by TASS, suggests this assumption. Perhaps this is one of the decisive stages in the recent increasingly obvious predominance of the reactionary-conservative forces in Moscow. Did Shevardnadze's concern about the impending military dictatorship already materialize? Perhaps in the next few days or in the near future we will have an answer to this and other even more crucial questions. The political fog that descended on the Kremlin as a result of the unexpected bloodshed in Vilnius and other actions in Lithuania, which for their part suggest the possibility of the existence of some script, allow for several clear conclusions:

—The "Brezhnev Doctrine," used internally in the Soviet republics, has no justification, regardless of how complex and difficult the USSR nationalities' problems are or how controversial the methods of the Lithuanian leaders are in restoring their state independence lost in 1940 as a result of the deal between Hitler and Stalin.

—Refraining from the use of violence is a universal principle. There could be no democratic and free development if this principle is disregarded. This principle cannot be valid abroad if it is not valid within your own state borders.

—The events in Vilnius decrease the great moral-political credit of the USSR and Mikhail Gorbachev throughout the world, which was created after 1985 as a result of the course of perestroyka and prudent and unconventional decisions in the field of foreign policy and was adopted in the name of peace.

—New bloodshed and the continuation of the use of armed force must not be allowed. The Lithuanian crisis must be resolved by negotiations. It is true that it is easy to dispense advice from afar. Despite the difference in the specific situation here or there it has been proven with absolute precision that the most complex problems and conflicts can be resolved through peaceful means, if good will prevails on both sides.

The bloodshed in Vilnius is an indication of the tendency to use the compromised and unfit means of the obsolete arsenal. Such means not only do not settle the problems, but exacerbate them even further. One must seek the ratio for recurrence in the slow and palliative character of the Soviet reforms and the still existing administrative-command system, which preserves its great influence and protects the positions of the party apparatus, the security forces, and the military-industrial complex.

All those who cherish the cause of the peoples' free and democratic development, and good and peaceful relations between East and West—goals in whose implementation Moscow and Mikhail Gorbachev made a major and universally recognized contribution—would like the Vilnius bloodshed to remain a sad, very tragic, but isolated incident, because there can be no "armored" perestroyka.

NATO's Arms Transfer Policy Examined

AU1701150291 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 11 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Interview with Chavdar Chervenkov, chief of the Disarmament Inspectorate at the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army, by Senior Lieutenant Krasimir Uzunov; place and not given: "Security Is the Priority of All"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Uzunov] Colonel, what prompted you to contact the editorial office of NARODNA ARMIYA?

[Chervenkov] On 8 January 1991 I gave an interview to a BTA representative in which I answered questions in connection with the announcements that appeared in the press in December 1990 concerning the intentions of the United States and certain West European countries to hand over some of their "superfluous" weapons to the NATO member states on the flanks, including Turkey and Greece. Because of the limited time available to me and the impossibility of checking the finished material, the report contained certain ambiguities and inaccuracies, which aroused perplexity among the specialists.

That is why I would like to clarify the issues raised, which formed the subject of a commentary that appeared in the mass media on 9 January.

First of all, I would like to explain what the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces, signed on 19 November in Paris by the heads of state of the 22 member countries of NATO and the Warsaw Pact, obliges the signatories to do, what it permits them to do, and what it prohibits them from doing. [passage omitted]

[Uzunov] How do you understand the actual situation regarding the issue of the transfer of arms from central Europe to the southern flank?

[Chervenkov] It is well known that last year, at various NATO meetings, including the last session of its supreme leading services, the question was discussed of transferring weapons from central Europe to the southern flank. As I have already pointed out, the treaty greatly restricts such possibilities, or, if "loopholes" do exist, we have so far failed to discover them. I greatly doubt that there are any loopholes.

The treaty does not prohibit modernization and the production of new weapons and combat equipment.

Any country that produces or purchases new weapons automatically increases its "norm for reductions" [norma za sukrashtenie], and it is obliged to destroy the newly appeared excess units. This is naturally carried out at the expense of obsolete weapon models.

Accordingly, if we accept as reliable the reports that have appeared in the press and which we discussed earlier, then most likely the mechanism for carrying out the deliveries has nothing in common with the limitations imposed by the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces.

[Uzunov] In this context, how do you evaluate the correlation of forces and the threat to national security?

[Chervenkov] When the global ceilings on armaments were negotiated in Vienna, it was determined that on the two flanks (Turkey, Greece, and Norway, in the case of NATO, and Bulgaria, Romania, and the Odessa, Kiev, Northern Caucasus, Transcaucasus, and Leningrad Military Districts for the Warsaw Pact), neither side should deploy more than 4,700 units of combat equipment, 5,900 armored combat vehicles, or 6,000 artillery systems with calibers over 100 millimeters. If one takes a look at the publication MILITARY BALANCE one will see what small quantities of weapons Norway has and, bearing in mind the appetite of our own allies, it will not be difficult to calculate the quantities that each one obtained according to permitted national levels. If parity exists over the flank as a whole between the permitted quantities of weapons held by NATO and the Warsaw Pact, then our own position, as a country located on the line of contact, is not particularly favorable. Here I would like to point out that we must accept the results of the treaty, whether they are good or bad, we must carry on living and building up our armed forces in conformance with them, and must strive at the second stage of the talks on conventional armed forces to seek ways to achieve a reduction in the imbalances on a regional basis.

[Uzunov] Colonel, in your view, is national security the priority of the Army, and is it true that everything boils down to the purely mechanical comparison of the correlation of forces in a particular region?

[Chervenkov] In almost all discussions, national security is invariably connected with the Army and, in particular, with the correlation of forces. It is high time that this process is considered not from a mathematical viewpoint but in a wider context, and it should be understood that, in addition to a military component, national security also includes, in the first place, a political one, in all its diversity, as well as an economic and even, I would say, an ecological component. The problem of national security can be viewed clearly if we simultaneously assess all its component parts, without, of course, underestimating any of them. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff Gives Figures on Army's Strength

AU1801100991 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 11 Jan 91 pp 1, 4

[Major Vladi Vladkov report on meeting between Colonel General Radnyu Minchev, first deputy minister of national defense and chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army, and military attaches accredited to Bulgaria; on 10 January; place not given]

[Text] A year of change, a year of hopes, a year of reforms—what kind of year was 1990 for Bulgaria, its people, and the Bulgarian Army? These and many other questions were addressed at the meeting held on 10 January between Colonel General Radnyu Minchev, first deputy minister of national defense and chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army [BNA], and military attaches accredited to Bulgaria.

Col. Gen. Minchev summarized the situation in Bulgaria following 10 November 1989 and spoke about the profound political changes and their consequences for the development of democracy. In his view, the launch of the economic reform will make it possible by the end of this year for the country to start to emerge from the serious economic crisis. As a ground for this prediction he mentioned the universal support for Mr. Dimitur Popov's government on the part of the political parties and coalitions and the trade unions.

In this changing situation, it is natural that the Army, as a supraparty state structure and as an army of the entire nation, should not lag behind the general trends of constructive renewal. The chief of the BNA General Staff emphasized that the Army is developing in accordance with Bulgarian traditions, on the basis of the available human potential, and in conformance with the international accords reached. At the all-European summit held in Paris in November 1989, Bulgaria assumed obligations, the fulfillment of which will guarantee the strengthening of its authority. Many important tasks stem from these obligations; these have been included in the plans of the Ministry of National Defense, and a good organization has been set up to implement these tasks in practice.

Col. Gen Minchev gave the military attaches basic data on the BNA. At present, its numerical strength is 107,000. It has about 2,000 tanks, 2,365 armored combat vehicles, 3,730 units of various types of artillery systems, including guns with calibers of more than 100 mm, 214 combat aircraft, and 51 combat helicopters. As is well-known, according to the Paris accords we are supposed to have 1,475 tanks, 2,000 armored combat vehicles, 1,750 artillery systems with calibers above 100 mm, 235 combat aircraft, and 67 helicopters. In accordance with these levels, the process to optimize the organizational structure of the units of command and formations of the various armed services and combat arms is continuing.

It was announced that it is planned to gradually reduce the administrative staff of the Ministry of National Defense within the limits of reasonable requirements.

More substantial structural changes are expected in the ground forces, but no particular changes are envisaged in the composition of the Air Defense, Air Force, and Navy.

Up to 1 October 1990, 78 generals and 1,737 officers were discharged from the BNA. Our Army now has 75 generals; six generals that are undergoing medical treatment do not hold staff posts.

Since 1 January 1991, all the military structures of the Warsaw Pact have ceased to function. The apparatus of the commander in chief of the Joint Armed Forces of the Warsaw Pact States has been reduced to a minimum. In the BNA only a few persons are left, and they will finally conclude their work before 1 July. Except for a few officers scheduled to complete their service before 1 July, all of the Bulgarian officers working at the Joint Armed Forces headquarters in Moscow have returned home.

Questions were asked, and specific answers given, but there was not enough time for all of them. Col. Gen. Radnyu Minchev proposed to continue the meeting next Tuesday [15 January], and this suggestion was accepted.

SDS Parliamentary Group Cochairmen Interviewed

AU1801101391 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 11 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with Petur Dertliev and Stoyan Ganev, newly elected cochairmen of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] Parliamentary Group, following their election, by Irina Yordanova and Georgi Koritarov in Sofia on 10 January—first paragraph is DEMOKRATSIYA's introduction]

[Text] A few minutes following the election of SDS Parliamentary Group cochairmen, we interviewed Petur Dertliev and Stoyan Ganev, asking them the following questions. On the basis of their replies we conclude that their unanimity and readiness for cooperation are undeniable.

[DEMOKRATSIYA] Why was the election of an SDS Parliamentary Group chairman so difficult?

[Dertliev] Because of the multifarious processes currently underway within the SDS, and also because today there is no personality comparable to Zhelyu Zhelev, for example.

[Ganev] The last few days were an opportunity for profound self-analysis, for a thorough examination of our problems, and of our further development. Various processes are underway within the SDS that I could not describe as negative, but on the contrary, as positive. The current development within the SDS is a process of ideological formation of centers that will not represent centrifugal forces, but rather the opposite. I think that we have succeeded in overcoming our difficulties and obstacles with our common sense and a lofty sense of responsibility.

[DEMOKRATSIYA] Will the election of two cochairmen contribute to the unity of the parliamentary union?

[Dertliev] Yes, it is important that two different people should cooperate for a common cause.

[Ganev] I am convinced that the election of two cochairmen has contributed to establishing the foundations of a genuine, non-artificial, and unadorned unity. The existence of two cochairmen is not a sign of weakness, but of strength in adopting the right decision.

[DEMOKRATSIYA] How do you view the forthcoming activities of the SDS in the Grand National Assembly?

[Dertliev] In supporting the government and achieving rapid progress in the debates related to the laws and to various other problems.

[Ganev] I think that the time of unconstructive political confrontation is over. The time for a constructive spirit in parliament has come. Our efforts, together with Mr. Dertliev, will be aimed at accelerating the parliament's work and creating a much more effective organization within the SDS Parliamentary Group to achieve progress in legislative work and speed our transition to new elections.

Consequences of Lukanov's Moscow Loyalty Decried

AU1801090991 Sofia SVOBODEN NAROD in Bulgarian 11 Jan 91 p 2

[Iliyan Manolov article: "Lukanov's 'Achievements' Versus Hidden Exits From the Fuel Shortage Tunnel"]

[Text] It would be useful to recall the events in Hungary related to the increase of fuel prices. The Hungarian Government increased prices by 70 percent. Hungarian drivers blocked the roads and the Hungarian parliament was forced to reduce the increase by half. Yes, of course, Hungarians are different. Is there not a saying in our country: "Even if gasoline cost five leva per liter, we would go on stealing and driving?"

Later on, Premier Lukanov gave us the pleasure of announcing that our payments for oil supplies will be implemented within the CEMA framework on the basis of market prices in convertible currency.

This announcement evoked new thoughts and new questions.

Considering that we are expected to pay according to market prices, and in dollars, could we not have signed an agreement on oil deliveries with other countries—such as Norway or Britain—or foreign companies which respect agreements—such as British Petroleum or Shell? There is even more—the payment of oil in dollars, thanks to Lukanov's "successes" and the "taming" of our foreign debt (citing DUMA). Or to put it better, the shock suffered by our creditors, resulting from the announcement on freezing our debt payments, was likely to cause great difficulties for our country and could cause the total breakdown of the plants that are dependent on oil deliveries.

Precisely at the moment in which the not so competent former governments had maneuvered us into the deadlock of the "oil shortage tunnel," a bright light seemed to illuminate us. The Soviet Union was on the verge of a "cigarette shortage revolt." As some people know, Bulgaria is one of the greatest per capita producers of cigarettes, and if not the greatest, it is at least among the leading world producers of tobacco goods. A really competent economist, such as Mr. Lukanov was reputed to be, would have seized the opportunity and would have signed the deal of the century to Bulgaria's benefit—a deal worth $2 billion (as much as the U.S. Philipp Morris Company earned from its own deal)—namely by selling cigarettes for oil. Let us divide two billion into 40, which corresponds to the price of one barrel of oil. This would amount to 50 million barrels of oil. We could multiply these millions by approximately 160, which is the amount of liters contained in one barrel, an amount that is equal to eight million tons of oil. This exceeds our annual consumption of oil products.

Why was this deal not concluded?

There are several reasons for this. In the first place, Andrey Lukanov was born in Moscow, something that prevented him from threatening Moscow at "cigarette gunpoint." In the second place, there was no readiness for such a deal because the filters for our cigarettes are imported raw materials that must be purchased for dollars. It is a well known fact that the import of raw materials for the production of cigarettes worth $2 billion would cost $120 million. Nevertheless, let us reflect—$120 million of investments for which we would earn $2 billion should have been worthwhile and would have spared us the trouble of waiting in front of gasoline stations and the concern about the functioning of our city transport, about the operation of thermo-electric power plants, and central heating for our homes.

The Lukanov government was later toppled, but it left the problems related to the oil shortage as an inheritance to the new government. The new contract on oil deliveries was signed, but we still have no guarantee that "the great brother" will observe it, while we are expected to

loyally deliver foodstuffs to him, goods which our country needs as urgently as the USSR.

As we see, Lukanov is only a "parliament member" today, but his "achievements" will remain with us for a long time and will continue to hinder us in our progress.

Council Discusses Personnel Reductions

AU1701211291 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 11 Jan 91 p 1

[Sonya Kurtuklieva and Vladimir Rupov report on the Third Session of the Council of Ministers on 10 January: "Unemployment Affects the Ministries"]

[Text] It will be interesting for our public to learn that in the near future everyone is entitled to use the VIP services of the Sofia Airport Company as long as he pays for them. Until recently, only government officials, diplomats, and other highranking functionaries were entitled to use VIP premises. Instead of the uncomfortable waiting rooms at the airport, passengers who can afford it will be able to sit in the pleasant B Hall (equipped with a buffet and a special minibus for the transportation of passengers to the aircraft.) Only the president, the prime minister, the National Assembly chairman, and some of their deputies are entitled to use the VIP services without paying for them. This should not apply to parliament members, the minister of finance categorically stated.

The first item on the agenda of the Third Council of Ministers Session on 10 January 1991 was dropped. It concerned the proposal of some Australian banks to offer long term loans to Bulgaria. Minister of Finance Ivan Kostov requested to postpone the discussion on the issue until some details have been specified.

A decision was adopted to propose to the Grand National Assembly that the Ministry of Construction should be restored on the basis of a modernized structure and a considerable reduction of the bureaucratic apparatus.

Proposals of the ministers of culture, public health, and transportations for updating the structure and functions of their ministries were discussed at the session. The opinion that deputy ministers should be young and competent cadres prevailed. The personnel of the Ministry of Public Health is expected to be reduced by 20 percent, while 50 percent of the Ministry of Culture's personnel will be dismissed.

It was decided to establish an inter-departmental commission under the Council of Ministers for the management of the foreign exchange debt and for coordinating mutual relations with international financial institutions and foreign banks, chaired by Mariana Todorova, deputy minister of foreign economic relations.

The administration of forests and timber industry is expected to be divided, forests will be transferred to the Council of Minister's jurisdiction in the purpose of protecting the country's forests, while the timber industry branch will be transferred to private companies and enterprises expected to provide their own raw materials on the basis of market mechanisms.

Last, but not least, Minister Ivan Kostov stated as follows: "As a matter of principle, we accept the increase of indemnities paid on the basis of 'civic responsibility' insurances, which under the current financial difficulties, are an additional burden for the budget....The draft law on insurance will eliminate the monopoly of the State Insurance Institute, but it raises the question of which reasonable and well organized structures should replace the institute. It should be clearly defined what the state considers permissible in connection with establishing private companies in the insurance sector: Can anyone with any capital whatsoever be authorized to establish an insurance company; are foreign companies entitled to do so? If anyone, with any capital whatsoever, is entitled to establish an insurance company, the risk of such private institutions going bankrupt is enormous. Hence, the concern for the citizens' interests should impose some limits, likely to guarantee the stability of insurance companies."

Kozloduy Power Unit Taken Out of Operation

AU1801104691 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Let us hear a rather unpleasant piece of news:

This morning at 0937 local time [0737 GMT] unit No. 5 of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant was automatically put out of operation. It has a capacity of 950 megawatts. This was announced to a BTA reporter by an inspector from the Central Control Administration of the Committee on Power Supply.

As a result of this situation, power cuts have been introduced for the population as of 1000 local time [0800 GMT] this morning on the basis of power every two hours for two hours throughout the day.

The reasons for the power unit being put out of operation are still being clarified. Additional information will be provided by the Power Supply Committee, on which we will report.

Popov Urges Castro To Observe Trade Agreement

AU1801115291 Sofia BTA in English 2206 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—Mr. Dimitur Popov, chairman of the Council of Ministers of Bulgaria, today received the ambassador of Cuba, Mr. Manuel Perez Hernandez. The leader of the Bulgarian Government stated that the changes in the country are not intended to harm any other countries, Cuba least of all. He handed a letter to the Cuban ambassador addressed to Mr. Fidel Castro with a plea for fulfilling the contracts concluded between the two countries.

The Bulgarian side has begun to fulfill its obligations to Cuba and we would like to receive the sugar consignments under the contracted quota the soonest possible,

Mr. Popov stated. The Bulgarian Government understands the difficult situation Cuba is in at the moment, but nevertheless it hopes Cuba will fulfill her obligations.

The ambassador assured Mr. Popov that the letter will be transmitted to Mr. Fidel Castro and added he would render assistance to expedite the sugar deliveries.

Third Round of Talks With IMF Opened

AU1701151791 Sofia BTA in English 1442 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—The last, third round of the negotiations between the Bulgarian Government and the International Monetary Fund started today. The fund's delegation is led by Mr. Anoup Singh. The working group of the Council of Ministers for the negotiations include the minister of finance Mr. Ivan Kostov, the president of the National Bank of Bulgaria Mr. Todor Vulchev and the minister of industry, trade and services Mr. Ivan Pushkarov.

The negotiations will last about 2 weeks. The basic goal is to prepare and sign the last version of the so-called "intention letters." According to today's "OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK," a daily close to the government, they contain a review of the situation in the country and concrete details concerning the implementation of the reform in 1991: overcoming the inflation pressure, restricting the budget deficit, stabilizing the payment balance, etc. As a result of these measures the necessary market mechanisms will be created. The price reform is in the center of the stabilization programme. It includes gradual liberalization of prices and bringing them closer to the international ones as well as the stabilization of the foreign currency exchange rate. The "intention letters" provide measures for stabilization of the payment balance and for the neutralization of the unfavourable effect of the new system of commercial payments between Bulgaria, the USSR and the other ex-socialist countries, as well as of the Gulf crisis, on the Bulgarian economy.

Minister of Finance Mr. Ivan Kostov said everything possible should be done to sign the "intention letters" within two weeks. If that fails, Bulgaria will not have any chances to receive aid before the end of this year. Resolute action is the condition for speeding up the reform.

Foreign Relations Expert on Price Increases

AU1701195891 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 10 Jan 91 p 1

[Article by Emil Minchev, director of the Institute of International Relations and Foreign Policy: "The Old Prices Will Remain Only Memories"]

[Text] Bulgaria's difficult economic situation evokes speculation with figures and percentages concerning the price increase. In the first place, such percentages do not mean anything to the common people; in the second place it became evident that the majority of our public is in a panic. Nevertheless, the forthcoming price liberalization is a fact. It means that prices will be liberalized and will reach levels exceeding the people's general ideas about price increases that we used to describe with the euphemism "correction." Nevertheless, such drastic measures are indispensable for the transition to a market economy, without which Bulgaria's future is unthinkable.

The conditions posed by the International Monetary Fund are well known. One of the conditions is precisely the liberalization of prices. Wage controls will be introduced on a compulsory basis and the budget deficit must be overcome. Privatization is also a necessary condition. A drastic reduction of state expenditures is required. Naturally, social peace and refraining from strike actions that disturb the government's work, in particular, will also become necessary.

No one knows how reliable the figures proposed to us are, which is not especially appropriate at this moment of tension. We need a calm and precise explanation, our society must become familiar with the thought that the prices we know today will remain only in our memory and that any return to them is unthinkable.

I expect that we will be confronted with price increases that exceed even our greatest present misgivings. Nevertheless, this is inevitable. The agreement of the political forces that was signed last Tuesday, 8 January, guarantees civic peace along this path. Poland already went through this stage of development and proved that by creating a solid system of social protection measures one can at least partially avoid risks. In Poland the stores were filled with goods and foodstuffs within a few months and even during the harshest period no one died of starvation. I am convinced that Dimitur Popov's government is preparing to put into operation the relevant social mechanisms and compensations. In its efforts to overcome the crisis, Bulgaria can rely on the assistance of the EC, of the European Bank for Assistance and Development, and on the International Monetary Fund.

By complying with the recommendations of the International Monetary Fund our country will succeed in restoring the confidence of international financial circles. Let us not forget that the government committed itself to control over price fluctuations in the case of 14 varieties of goods and this shows that such basic foodstuffs will not reach the astronomical figures which some so-called specialists are insinuating to the frightened people. The government is by no means a hostage of the International Monetary Fund; it is free to act, and its own experts can show what they are capable of. No time should be wasted. The transition is expected to be harsh and dramatic. It is evident that the government does not intend to postpone the reform. If you should have your tooth pulled out slowly day by day for an entire week you might get mad. A tooth should be pulled suddenly. The pain might be excruciating, but it will promptly subside.

Trade Union Leader Optimistic About Peace Pact

AU1701144691 Sofia BTA in English 1346 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Independent Trade Unions, Podkrepa Mend Differences?"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, January 17 (BTA)—The Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria, which succeeded the official trade unions, and the opposition Podkrepa Labour Confederation, until recently intransigent rivals, seem to be on their way to iron out their differences.

At a news conference here today Prof. Dr. Krustyu Petkov, leader of the Independent Trade Unions, made it clear that the treatment on equal terms of the two major trade union organizations in Bulgaria on the part of the European Trade Union Confederation is a recognition and a way for their unification, which was hinted by the European confederation.

Prof. Petkov is an optimist about the implementation of the social peace agreement between the trade unions, the government and the employers; along with that, however, he is aware of the considerable difficulties. He fears the excessive pragmatism of some government officials and the corporate executives' simplistic ideas of capitalism, the unclear positions of the employer organisations.

The professor said that the International Confederation of Trade Unions has expressed concern over the forms of marketization in the East European countries, Bulgaria included. Without a social commitment, the reforms may be called into question, he said.

New Members of Grand National Assembly Profiled

AU1701122391 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 15 Jan 91 p 2

[Mitko Krumov report: "New Deputies Yuriy Borisov and Vasil Kostov Replace Dobri Dzhurov and Georgi Velichkov Who Resigned"]

[Text] Two new people's representatives from Sofia's 21st Multiple-Candidate constituency—Mr. Yuriy Mitkov Borisov and Mr. Vasil Lyubomirov Kostov—will enter the parliament. They will replace Dobri Dzhurov from the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] and Georgi Velichkov from the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS], who resigned. This was decided by the Central Election Commission at its 14 January meeting.

Mr. Yuriy Borisov, who joins the BSP parliamentary group, was No. 8 in the Socialists' Sofia list. He was born in August 1956—a "Leo." Until recently he was chief assistant in the philosophy department at the Medical Academy. He was laid off, but continues to conduct classes. He is a candidate of philosophy and chairman of the National Council of the Socialist Youth Union. He is a member of the BSP Supreme Council.

Mr. Vasil Kostov was No. 24 on the SDS proportional list.

Turkish Language Lessons in Schools Discussed

AU1701204591 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 10 Jan 91 p 2

[Katya Mollova report: "Turkish Language Lessons Are Being Introduced in Some Schools"]

[Text] Bulgarian schools in certain areas of the country have introduced Turkish language lessons to be taught on a weekly four hours basis beginning 15 January 1991. This was announced at yesterday's news conference of the All-People's Committee for Defense of National Interests given on the occasion of the committee's first anniversary.

A declaration of the Christian Patriotic Youth Union from Kurdzhali and the Razgrad area states that members of the union would start nationwide strike actions on the second day after the introduction of the new language.

According to Mincho Minchev, spokesman of the All-People's Committee for Defense of National Interests, the introduction of Turkish language lessons is in contradiction with the Bulgarian Constitution. He pointed out that this would contribute to form the children's Turkish ethnic self-awareness, which the committee has nothing against, but it objects to the claims for the Turkish community's rights.

Referring to a rally held on 26 December 1990 with deputies from the parliamentarian group of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms [MRF] held in the Kurdzhali village of Muglene, Mr. Minchev pointed out that the existence of Turkish nationalism in Bulgaria was raised on that occasion. This characterizes the actions of the MRF as separatist.

There have never been any Turks in Yakoruda. Two thirds of the population is Muslim, but has never spoken Turkish, having preserved the most beautiful Bulgarian songs, said local teacher Zhivko Sakhatchiev, adding that a fierce Islamization of the children is underway in Yakoruda today. He is disturbed by statements of his students, such as: "Never Bulgaria," and "I give my life for Turkey."

According to Mr. Minchev, the president's office and the government have no serious approach to the nationality problem and will have to bear the responsibility for all consequences. Mr. Minchev further pointed out: "I would be very pleased if things could be as well resolved in our country as they are in Turkey, but as long as we continue to serve the goals of national nihilism, pseudo-scientific theories, and misunderstood humanitarianism, we will face unresolved nationality problems."

Havel, Calfa Attend Defense Council Meeting

LD1701114991 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1000 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The situation in the Persian Gulf and the Baltic area are on the agenda of today's session of the Council of Defense of the State. President Vaclav Havel and the commander in chief of the Czechoslovak Armed Forces are attending the meeting. The council has been convened in Lany Castle by its chairman Prime Minister Marian Calfa.

More on Meeting

LD1701155591 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1430 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The extraordinary session of the Council of Defense of the State, in the presence of Vaclav Havel, president of the Republic, was chaired in the Lany Chateau by its chairman Marian Calfa, the Czechoslovak prime minister.

The Council heard a report by Jiri Dienstbier, deputy federal prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, on the situation in the Persian Gulf and on the activity of the operational staff that is working continuously at the Ministry. Jiri Dienstbier said that all Czechoslovak citizens in the area, including members of our military unit in Saudi Arabia, are all right.

Federal Minister of Interior Jan Langos presented a report on the activity of the special security staff.

Federal Minister of Defense Lubos Dobrovsky reported on the cooperation between the Czechoslovak Army and this staff in the protection of buildings of special importance.

In this regard, the federal minister of communications has been ordered to ban amateur radio stations broadcasting on selected bands until further notice.

The Council of Defense of the State also approved the approach, until now, of all responsible organizations and said all measures adopted so far are sufficient. It also discussed the extent of protection of buildings of special importance and ordered the federal minister of the interior to prepare further steps toward the protection of citizens and property.

The Council of Defense of the State also stressed that it is necessary to submit as soon as possible to the Federal Assembly a legal amendment regulating the approach of state organizations in a situation of internal threat.

Calfa Comments on Country's Stance in Gulf War

LD1701220291 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by Marian Calfa, prime minister and chairman of the Council of Defense of the State, on January 17; place not given—recorded; Calfa speaks in Slovak]

[Excerpts] The stance of our country has been clear since the very beginning—we stand side by side with the countries defending law, justice, and democracy. This stance of ours has been highly appreciated through the world.

I can say that Czechoslovak citizens who find themselves in the Middle East region, including our military unit, are in good health. Let us hope that their abilities and courage will not be called into full use. We should be aware of the fact that our chemical defense unit is not only a part of the multinational military forces, but that it also represents all of us. [passage omitted]

I am glad to be able to say that the overwhelming majority of our citizens behave according to the situation and do not succumb to an unreasonable shopping fever. This is a question not only of common sense but also of civic honor. We are in constant contact with the world and we have a good assessment of the internal security situation.

I should like to thank all the citizens and collectives who express unequivocal support for our state's policy in the current conflict. Let us believe it will end as soon as possible, that there will be minimum suffering, and that law and peace will be renewed in a region which is only seemingly far away from our country. [end recording]

Federal Government Issues Statement on Gulf War

LD1701144891 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In a statement today, the federal government considers the start of actions against Iraq by the allied forces as a logical ending of the current crisis in the Persian Gulf. It is a logical and legal consequence of the fact that Iraq refused to implement the UN Security Council resolution calling for immediate and unconditional withdrawal of her troops from the unlawfully occupied Kuwaiti territory. The Czechoslovak Government fully supports the adopted decision to extort [as heard] by means of the will of the international community the liberation of Kuwait by all available means. At the same time, it is calling on the Government of the Republic of Iraq, to avert, by a speedy withdrawal of troops from Kuwait, further bloodshed and escalation of material damage in the entire region, for which it bears full responsibility.

Dienstbier Says 'Iraq Will Not Win' Gulf War

LD1701231291 Prague CTK in English 1932 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 17 (CTK)—"I hope this war will end soon. Today it is already evident that Iraq will not win," Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier said at a briefing at his ministry today.

In his opinion Saddam Husayn has made several mistakes, e.g. he has not realized that the world is no longer

split up into East and West and he did not believe that the anti-Iraqi coalition would hold together up to the outbreak of the armed conflict.

The foreign minister further said that he will be meeting his Polish and Hungarian counterparts on January 21 in an unspecified Hungarian town. The aim of the meeting is to prepare a tripartite summit of presidents and prime ministers.

Czechoslovakia is not at war with Iraq, Director of the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry Press Department Michal Cermak said at the briefing.

He explained that a Czechoslovak regiment only joined the international action of the United Nations aimed at pushing Iraqi Armed Forces out of Kuwait. For Czechoslovakia Iraq is "merely" an enemy state, he added.

Presidential Adviser Sasa Vondra told CTK that a report on the opening of operations in the Gulf was communicated to Czechoslovakia through the Czechoslovak Embassy in the USA.

Asked at the briefing about the stand of the Czechoslovak diplomacy on the solution of the Palestinian issue, the foreign minister said the question was premature. The U.N. Security Council resolution on pushing Iraqi troops out of Kuwait must be fulfilled first.

Jiri Dienstbier said Saddam Husayn has marred all hopes for a peaceful solution as he showed no willingness to make concessions.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Egon Lansky said, answering a question whether Saudi Arabia asked for reinforcement of the Czechoslovak decontamination regiment, that this problem has not been dealt with at inter-governmental level and added that his country has so far not been supplying Saudi Arabia with weapons. However, he admitted the Saudis are interested in anti-chemical equipment used by the Czechoslovak unit.

Elaborating on the Czechoslovak-Hungarian-Polish meeting in Hungary January 21 Dienstbier said that the three countries do not want to form a Central European bloc or a "cordon sanitaire". Our countries just have similar problems, he said.

The situation in the Baltic region does not change anything in the timetable of the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact.

According to Dienstbier, Warsaw Pact representatives should meet by mid-February so that the dissolution of the organization may continue smoothly. The military structures of the Warsaw Pact are to be dismantled by July 1, 1991.

Dienstbier Interviewed

LD1701115991 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0912 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Jiri Dienstbier by Jitka Obzinova at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 17 January—passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] As events develop in connection with fighting in the Persian Gulf, Petr Holman keeps bringing the latest reports. What have you got for us now?

[Holman] About an hour ago, Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier gave his view on the war in the Persian Gulf. My colleague Jitka Obzinova is now back in our studio from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

[Obzinova] Jiri Dienstbier, federal minister of foreign affairs, granted a few minutes to journalists to brief them on the current position of the ministry on the conflict in the Persian Gulf:

[Dienstbier] "The operational staff has been meeting throughout the night. We are in continuous contact with our embassies in the area and elsewhere, too. We are always processing information as it arrives. Our citizens in the Middle East, including our military unit, are all right so far. Operations, as you know, are being conducted against military targets; thus, Saddam Husayn is still being given a chance to withdraw from Kuwait if he wants to stop the fighting. Our position, I think, is clear and has been clear from the very beginning as we have sent our unit to the Gulf. By this we have already expressed our position very clearly indeed. Saddam Husayn simply must be forced to leave Kuwait. We would be much happier if he had realized that earlier. I think that he has had enough time to do so—more than six months, in fact—and there is no other alternative left than to attempt to liberate Kuwait by other, military means."

[Obzinova] Replying to a question about what the federal government would do today, Foreign Affairs Minister Jiri Dienstbier said:

[Dienstbier] "The government will today adopt a quite unambiguous stand."

[Obzinova] Concerning the current progress of fighting in Iraq, Minister Dienstbier said:

[Dienstbier] "There was a moment of surprise, and it is a battle between very modern and very old equipment. Therefore it was possible at the very beginning to disable entire systems, and it was even possible to shoot down missiles which were, according to reports, already launched. Thus one can hardly speak about little activity, but the fact is that they have not been able to get the machinery into motion yet."

[Obzinova] On coordination with other ministries, the minister of foreign affairs stressed the following:

[Dienstbier] "The coordination is perfect. Mr. Kulawiec, the director of the consular section, has only just arrived from the crisis staff session at the Interior Ministry where he is our representative. The session was held at night and will be held again in the afternoon."

[Obsinova] Concerning the situation at our diplomatic missions, he said:

[Dienstbier] "We—as I have said—are in constant contact and are receiving information all the time. So far, all Czechoslovak citizens are all right."

[Obzinova] And the final question: What is the agenda for the minister of foreign affairs today?

[Dienstbier] "In a short while I am departing for a session of the State Council of Defense which will also deal with this issue."

[Obzinova] I will only add now that the State Council of Defense was to begin its session a few mintues ago—at 1000. We will report on further developments in our next news bulletin.

Dienstbier Adviser Interviewed

LD1701153391 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with Dr. Michal Cermak, adviser to the foreign minister, by Lydia Mrazova; place and date not given—recorded, Cermak responds in Czech]

[Excerpts] [Mrazova] Mr. Cermak, a virtual succession of meetings is taking place in your ministry today. What has been their outcome?

[Cermak] It was first and foremost the fact that the efficiency of the operational staff, which has been working already for several days under direct management of Minister Dienstbier, has increased. It means that a group of specialists was here throughout the night. The group had an opportunity to gain information about the situation in the Near East through our representative bodies, press agencies, and CNN television broadcasting in particular. This situation is being continually assessed. A group of analysts has been set up, too. While holding a session, it is producing a summary and submitting forecasts of future developments. The ministry will be adopting various stances in keeping with the way the situation in the Near East shapes up.

The State Defense Council is currently in session in Lany and it is assumed that a statement will be adopted there. As far as our representative offices are concerned, the situation there is calm. This is in keeping with the war and military actions which are now progressing in a way which does not put any of our people in immediate danger. There is no panic and no reason to worry. [passage omitted]

Naturally, the public is also asking about our present state of affairs vis-a-vis Iraq. On this point one should emphasize that a declaration of war is not at issue, but rather the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions that have authorized the world community to achieve, by military means, Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the state which existed before the August intervention of this state [Iraq] against its neighbor. [end recording]

Parties Back Action Against Iraqi 'Dictatorship'

LD1701154291 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1300 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] The Czechoslovak People's Party, the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, the Czechoslovak Social Democracy, and the Czechoslovak Agrarian Party in a joint statement today expressed their full support for efforts by the United Nations and all states which are taking part in the military action against the Iraqi dictatorship. In this serious time, the named parties are fully behind the governments of allied states and Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel.

Customs Staff Armed; Border Checks Stricter

LD1701132491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 0930 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] In connection with the state of war in the Persian Gulf, Milan Hurny, director of the customs office in Bratislava, has announced that necessary measures have been taken on Czechoslovak borders. Before the start of military operations by the multinational forces in the Persian Gulf, the staff of the customs administration was armed and they, together with members of passport control, have introduced stricter checks on selected passengers. In mutual cooperation, they are also protecting buildings at the borders.

Agreement With Saudis on Army Unity Ratified

LD1601231891 Prague CTK in English 2210 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak federal parliament ratified today a Czechoslovak-Saudi Government agreement on the activity and conditions of stay of Czechoslovak military experts on the territory of Saudi Arabia.

The parliament also agreed that the decision on a possible deployment of the Czechoslovak decontamination regiment outside the Saudi territory should be made on the part of Czechoslovakia by the Czechoslovak Federal Government.

The Czechoslovak Government agreed with sending the Czechoslovak regiment of about 180 to Saudi Arabia on November 16, 1990 and the first part left on December 11.

Meciar on Influx of Soviets, Constitutional Setup

AU1701141691 Prague CTK in English 2017 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Kosice, East Slovakia, Jan 15 (CTK)— Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar said here today that the situation in the Soviet Union is alarming and that it poses certain risks for Slovakia as well.

He told representatives of local administration that there will be an influx of Soviet citizens leaving the country legally and illegally due to political reasons. Slovakia must prepare for it but it is not capable of sheltering more than 6,000 refugees.

Commenting on the new constitutional setup in Czechoslovakia he said Slovakia favors the federation of two equal republics. It resolutely opposes activities by some political groups which support the idea of a confederation as well as the effort at returning Ruthenia to Czechoslovakia (Ruthenia used to be part of Czechoslovakia until the year 1945).

The Slovak prime minister is currently on a working visit to East Slovakia. He got acquainted with the security situation in the area and inspected some military installations.

Debate on Dam Project With Hungary Continues

AU1701123491 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Jan 91 pp 1, 2

[Olga Vavrova report: "And Millions Go Down the Drain...."]

[Text] **Bratislava—G. Kiss-Samsondi and D. Kocinger, Hungarian and Czechoslovak plenipotentiaries, replied to jouranlists' questions following their meeting in Bratislava yesterday. In reply to a Hungarian journalist's question as to which common road leads from the deep hole called Gabcikovo- Nagymaros, Kocinger spoke of the trust ... we put in the professional abilities of the experts and of the belief that they will be able to find an acceptable solution to all unresolved problems, particularly to the ecological threats resulting from the operation of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros project. This should all be possible on the basis of the existing and still valid international agreement of 1977.**

This opinion, however, was definitely not shared by Mr. G. Kiss-Samsondi, who reiterated the same old decision of the Hungarian Government, according to which this construction is a mistake, and therefore the Czechoslovak side should withdraw from the international agreement as well and enter into a new one. The Hungarian plenipotentiary, during his second visit to Bratislava regarding the Danube project, was accompanied by Nandor Rot, chairman of the Parliamentary Committee for the Environment, and by his adviser, Professor Laszlo Valki. He brought with him the long awaited "batch of expert data documenting the ecological risks of the project," which the Hungarian side promised to deliver to the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic by 15 November of last year. This delayed documentation will have to be analyzed by Czechoslovak experts, and only then will they be able to formulate their request to the European Community, the experts of which are willing to assess all aspects of the project and recommend to both governments the optimal solution. To the NARODNA OBRODA question whether the Hungarian side is willing to accept any solution other than the alternatives of eliminating or mothballing [zlikvidovat alebo zakonzervovat] the project, Mr. G. Kiss-Samsondi replied that Hungary would not consider an international expert evaluation to be the final decision. To our additional question whether Hungary would insist on receiving one-half of the power produced there even if Czechoslovakia is forced to complete the Gabcikovo power plant alone, Adviser Professor Valki replied that it would be a unilateral step by Czechoslovakia, that Czechoslovakia cannot operate the Gabcikovo power plant without approval by Hungary, and Hungary will not give its consent. A representative of our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ludek Krajhanzl, who was present at the conference, immediately responded by saying that he was glad to hear from the Hungarian side such an opinion on the unilateral withdrawal from the agreement.

According to the replies to journalists' questions following the meeting of the government plenipotentiaries, the words of NARODNA OBRODA Budapest correspondent T. Ferko were confirmed. The day before yesterday he wrote in his announcement of this meeting: The Hungarian strategy of playing for time is successful so far. Time may take care of the elimination of construction. Let us add that each day of delays in starting the operation of the project costs us 10 million korunas.

Party of Neutrality Active Once Again

AU1701150891 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 16 Jan 91 p 2

[CTK report in the "Briefly from Home" column]

[Text] The Party of Czechoslovak Neutrality [Strana Cesko-slovenske neutrality] has once again become active. It states that it has nothing in common with the party which calls itself the Czechoslovak National Congress and it dissociates itself from the activities of this party. The renewed party invites its members and supporters to participate. The Party of Czechoslovak Neutrality, which was founded in January 1990, seeks permanent neutrality for the CSFR.

Press on Terms of IMF Loan, World Bank Loan

AU1701205291

[Editorial Report] Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 10 January, Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 11 January, and Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 12 January publish items dealing with Czechoslovakia's current negotiations on loans from international monetary institutions and the terms of the already approved IMF loan.

Prague MLADA FRONTA DNES in Czech on 10 January on page 2 carries a 400-word interview with Vaclav Mezricky, deputy minister of environment of the Czech Republic, by a "jet"-signed MLADA FRONTA DNES correspondent entitled "Sixty Million for the Start." The interview was conducted on 9 January, prior to Mezricky's departure for the United States as a member of a Czechoslovak delegation that is to conduct negotiations on the terms of a $500 million loan from the World Bank.

According to Mezricky, the loan from the World Bank is to be earmarked for three areas: "assistance in the transition toward market economy," the Czechoslovak energy sector, and investments in the environment (which also explains Mezricky's participation in the delegation). Asked about the importance of the loan, Mezricky says that a loan from the World Bank "is tantamount to a recommendation for other financial or industrial organizations" and is therefore likely to "attract" other foreign investors. In Mezricky's estimate, these subsequent foreign investments could amount to three times the volume of the World Bank loan.

Mezricky mentions that prior to receiving the "big loan," Czechoslovakia will receive from the World Bank a "small $60 million loan for environmental improvement projects." This should help both sides "verify possibilities of making use of the projected big loan."

Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 11 January on page 13, under the headline "A Loan With Tough Criteria," carries a 300-word unattributed report on an undated news conference with Josef Tosovsky, chairman of the Czechoslovak State Bank. At the news conference, Tosovsky provided details on the approximately $1.8 billion loan for Czechoslovakia which the IMF approved on 7 January. According to Tosovsky, the biggest portion of this loan ($876 million) will be used to "finance the economic reform"; $677 million will be used "to solve problems connected with oil"; and $206 million represent a contingency reserve for the eventuality of world oil prices rising beyond the forecast level. According to the NARODNA OBRODA report, Tosovsky stressed that the loan which the IMF approved for Czechoslovakia is higher, relative to the size of the population, than the loans extended by the IMF to "any other country."

Tosovsky also said that the Czechoslovak State Bank would like to "sustain" the Czechoslovak koruna's new exchange rate of approximately 28 korunas per one U.S. dollar "over the longer term." The exchange rate is not pegged to the U.S. dollar, however, but to a "basket of selected hard currencies."

The terms of the IMF loan for Czechoslovakia are also the subject of a 500-word undated interview with Jindrich Zahradnik, deputy chairman of the Czechoslovak State Bank, in Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 12 January on page 3.

Zahradnik is first asked how much Czechoslovakia had to pay for its IMF membership. He says that the Czechoslovak "membership quota" represented 590 million special drawing rights, which is approximately $826 million. Czechoslovakia had to pay 22.7 percent of its membership quota in hard currency and the rest in korunas. The sum in korunas totalled 15.3 billion and Czechoslovakia completed the repayment of its membership quota on 20 December 1990.

Zahradnik goes on to comment on the availability of the IMF loan. He says that the first tranche of over $440 million was made available on 10 January and the second tranche of approximately $310 million will become available on 15 January.

As regards the terms of the IMF loan, Zahradnik says that the loan is subject to the "rate of interest on special drawing rights, which is currently around 9 percent."

Socialist Party Elects New Chairman 13 Jan

LD1501120991 Prague CTK in English 1803 GMT 13 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 13 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Socialist Party, recovering from "a most critical period in its history", elected Ladislav Dvorak its new chairman at its two-day congress today.

Dvorak, 47, is deputy minister of finance of the Czech Republic. Blanka Hykova was elected first deputy chairman of the party.

In its final statement today the party pledged its support to the ideas of democracy, humanity and liberal socialism as they are currently represented in Europe by the Socialist Parties of France and Italy. The Czechoslovak party intends to cooperate closely with these and other parties.

After long debates whether it is to keep its name or not, it has decided to preserve its historical name of 1918, the Czechoslovak Socialist Party.

The delegates received with deep concern the reports about the Soviet Army actions in Lithuania and in a statement on the international situation protested against the deployment of the Army to suppress the effort of the Lithuanian people to pursue their own road to freedom.

The party, which survived over forty years of the Communist rule as a member of "the National Front", suffered a deep crisis and a split when one of its wings separated last year. Although its support was quite high after November 1989, it began to decline due to internal bickering and it failed to win any seat in the federal and republics' parliaments in June 1990. It now regards its gains in the communal elections last November, 30 percent above the June vote, as a success.

Publishing House Concludes International Agreement

AU1701163291 Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech 10 Jan 91 p 1

["(R)"-signed report: "Melantrich International"]

[Text] Paris—A delegation representing the Czechoslovak Socialist Party [CSS] and the MELANTRICH publishing house—Professor M. Adam, acting CSS deputy chairman, J. Bauer, deputy director of MELANTRICH, and Dr. F. Nevrela, a legal adviser—has concluded an agreement in Paris on establishing a shareholding company called Melantrich International. Professor Dr. Jan Mader, a pre-February 1948 party member now living in Paris, also took part in the talks. This holding company will form the basis for several sister companies which will shortly guarantee—thanks to the investment of French capital—publication of SVOBODNE SLOVO and other MELANTRICH publications on a European technological level. Cooperation was also agreed upon in other areas such as current affairs and advertising.

Czech Prime Minister Gives Weekly Interview

LD1501222191 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1800 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Interview with Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart by unidentified reporter; place and date not given; from "A Meeting With the Prime Minister of the Czech Government" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, last weekend you attended the Civic Forum republican assembly. What did you say there?

[Pithart] Well, I was asked above all by the assembly to present a report on the Czech Government's policy. Do not forget that this government is a coalition government. As the Civic Forum won the parliamentary elections—it received a majority of seats—delegates to the assembly have the right to know how members of the Civic Forum in the government are co-creating their policy. I spoke about the fact that Czech policy wants to respect the Czech political style in its good tradition. This is, as it is well known, realistic, not utopian, pragmatic, and somehow conservative in a sober way. Thus we would not want the Czech government to talk to the Slovak government in a style which is alien to us. Our style is unostentatious and businesslike. Only in this way, in my opinion, is it possible to overcome differences; namely, to continue talks given the accepted difference of views. After all, (?we reached) a more or less acceptable compromise. This was what I talked about in the first part of my short address.

[Reporter] You also spoke about relations between the Czech government and the federal government.

[Pithart] Yes, I did, but I am not sure whether it was well understood. I specifically stressed that the Czech government is implementing radical economic reforms, but it simply uses a different vocabulary from that of macroeconomists at the federal level. Our focus is simply somewhat different, although we are looking in the same direction. The Czech government has a greater responsibility toward specific people in enterprises than toward the World Bank. On the other hand, federal economic ministers have to be more interested in how the World Bank views us. This is quite in order and does not contain any criticism. The two views are not mutually exclusive. On the contrary, in my opinion they supplement each other. Thus we were able to say with a clear conscience that the Czech government would give Federal Minister of Finance Klaus its support in his uneasy task.

[Reporter] Did you express your views on the Civic Forum's program as a political party?

[Pithart] No, I did not. I had a speech ready for the discussion but there were too many of us there. In addition, the assembly had to deal with matters which were not planned originally—above all the dramatically changing international political situation.

[Reporter] What do you think about the Civic Forum program as a political party?

[Pithart] Above all, I think that the time is truly ripe for this movement to take on a better shape, to become better defined, and to clarify certain matters such as membership, responsibility, and, to a certain extent, discipline. In other words, it should become a political party. I voted for that. Its foremost aim should be support for the radical economic reforms. All this happened at the assembly, but the profile of this party is another question. I have in mind what this party is going to look like from the inside— this is very important—and also what it is going to look like from the outside; that is, how attractive it will be for the electorate. This, at the moment, is only a question.

[Reporter] One more question in connection with the Civic Forum. Many people naturally welcomed the changes which the Civic Forum is going through or will be going through. Despite this, there are apprehensions that slogans and trends are moving to the right, but methods are downright from the left...

[Pithart] Yes, this was roughly the Liberal Club's reply at the conclusion of the assembly. Fortunately I do not think that everything has been decided. The Civic Forum is in for a process of differentiation. You know, if the assembly had been held on 12 April and not on 12 January, the mood would have been quite different. Therefore, much is left that we will have to clarify in discussions. The Civic Forum faces complicated decisionmaking. A very distinct party is attractive for a very distinct electorate. In general, there are fewer very distinct voters than indistinct ones. That is banal, but one has to respect it.

Forecasts have appeared in the press that the number of those favoring the Civic Forum could drop to one-third of the original number, disregarding the electorate.

Although the will for better differentiation is appropriate, it is very important that we remember the need for an internal plurality of views; in other words, inner party democracy. For example, what significance will be attached to membership base and what significance will be attached to the apparatus of the new party? At the assembly it seemed that members were divided into two camps. This could not have passed unnoticed by anyone. The majority, formed mainly by activists from districts and managers, favored a stricter regime, a more differentiated program, and very strict criteria for membership selection. The minority, which had in mind not only the inner party situation but also the electorate, favored more freedom.

I said that everything was not decided. A lot will depend on the party statutes which have not yet been adopted, in particular, how the relationship between the majority and minority will be adjusted. In democratic conditions the majority or minority status of various opinions is nothing stable. In democratic parties there is constant movement. Majorities and minorities change their positions and this should happen, if possible, easily. This is a guarantee for the internal life of the party and its viability inside a political system. To realize this and make decisions accordingly is the task which the Civic Forum has yet to solve. It would be very good if followers of various views inside the Civic Forum met more often and more openly to exchange their views.

[Reporter] Mr. Prime Minister, I would like to direct our attention to something else. The Soviet Army has occupied Lithuania. This should say something to us, the Czechs, and to Czechoslovakia in general. We all remember 1968. Could you say something about this?

[Pithart] I do not think it is appropriate to go to great lengths about how it reminds us of our fate 23 years ago. Maybe it is even more reminiscent of the Hungarian fate 35 years ago. The Soviet invasion of Budapest, at that time, too, was carried out against the background of the then crisis in the Near East. The Soviet superpower's behavior has not changed in some very essential respects. Its forces, as we know, are still on our territory, and we depend on its oil. This makes the present situation even more serious than apparent at first sight. One does not have to appeal to us too much for solidarity with the Latvian people and with the Baltic people in general. I think that the world has registered that this time it was Czechoslovakia—both its citizens and constitutional organizations—who were the fastest and most resolute to react. I am glad because for a long time, for understandable reasons, we have lacked the basic ability to be in solidarity with someone who happens to be badly off somewhere in the rest of the world. We were too inward-looking. The spontaneous reactions of citizens is evidence of the fact that we are getting rid of this introversion.

There are, however, other variables at stake. For the time being there is the question of what will happen to the idea of a European home with which Mr. Gorbachev charmed the West with some time ago. What will happen to him when, as he says, he finds out about the invasion only incidentally? What will happen to the democratization of the USSR? How will all this activate the antidemocratic forces in our country? Moreover, I repeat, Soviet oil may stop coming at any time.

I do not want to be overly pessimistic. I am only saying what occurs to any thinking person. I am only saying it to differentiate between significant matters which we are now dealing with, which we are arguing about in the Civic Forum. The Movement for Self-Administered Democracy-Association for Moravia and Silesia is announcing its departure from the government coalition. Our political scene is agitated. All this is taking place against a background of events which can change the course of events not only in Central Europe, but can also change world history. I want to say simply that we ought to be concerned with worries other than those which we are experiencing today.

Let us not forget that not only Lithuania, not only the Baltics, but also the situation in the Persian Gulf can substantially influence the situation in our country. Maybe we will need much stronger political unity in times to come than we are capable of at the moment. Altogether it seems to me that we lack some kind of a basic distance from our problems. Pettiness is perhaps the greatest Czech vice, or, to put it the other way around, a lack of magnanimity. Often we are not able to see things, problems, our arguments, in the appropriate perspective.

If what is happening is happening, let us use it to look at what we are arguing about to discuss correctly the size and significance of the problems. In my opinion, it will turn out that many of the problems are really petty.

I think this is how some kind of a lesson from what is happening in the world today would look like.

Civic Forum Elects Two Deputy Chairmen

AU1701162291 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 16 Jan 91 p 2

[Unattributed report in the "News" column]

[Text] The Civic Forum [OF] Council of the Czech Republic elected two OF deputy chairmen at its session yesterday. Lubor Kinst was elected first OF deputy chairman and Milan Kondr second OF deputy chairman.

Moravian, Silesian Movement Leaves Coalition

LD1601091991 Prague CTK in English 2135 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 14 (CTK)—The self-government Democracy Movement-Society for Moravia and Silesia (HSD-SMS) said today it was leaving the Czech Government coalition with the Civic Forum (CF) [OF], the strongest force in the Czech Republic.

In a statement made available to CTK, HSD-SMS stated that in a number of cases representatives opposed the main goals of the movement, especially concerted action in settling genuine self-government of Moravia and Silesia, they rejected draft solutions regarding the Czech Government's budget discriminating against Moravian and Silesian districts, and its request to replace Czech Minister of State Control Bohumil Tichy by a more competent person remained unheeded on part of the Czech parliament's chairwoman Dagmar Buresova.

Ministries' Make Statement on Bata Property

AU1701205591

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 11 January on page 3, under the headline "Neither Zlin Nor Partizanske Belong to Bata," carries a 500-word joint statement issued by the Czech Justice Ministry and the Czech Industry Ministry concerning property in the CSFR claimed by Tomas Bata, Jr.

The statement outlines the terms of the will of Tomas Bata, Sr. who left everything to Jan Antonin Bata. Jan Antonin Bata later transferred 25 percent of his shares to Marie Batova, the wife of Tomas Bata, Jr. In 1939, Jan Antonin Bata, Tomas Bata, Jr., and Marie Batova left Czechoslovakia.

In accordance with paragraph 16 of decree No. 95/1945, a shareholder is obliged to deposit his shares in a public depository and to declare them. According to the statement, this was not done in the case of the Bata shares and, therefore, "in accordance with Paragraph 18 of the above-mentioned decree, the undeclared shares were relinquished to the state. All the subsequent disputes between Jan Antonin Bata and Tomas Bata, Jr. could not change anything in the Czechoslovak state's ownership apropos the Bata Company's shares, shares which concerned enterprises on our territory. It does not matter whether their owner was Jan Antonin Bata or Tomas Bata, Jr. since neither of them deposited the shares in a public depository or declared them within the specified time limit; therefore, in accordance with Paragraph 18 of decree No. 95/1945, they were relinquished to the state."

The statement adds that Tomas Bata, Jr. had a theoretical claim to the 25 percent of shares transferred by Jan Antonin Bata to Marie Batova in 1939. Marie Batova, however, paid a capital levy to the state. The statement ends with the following: "The above-mentioned conclusions do not affect the other possible property belonging to Marie Batova or Tomas Bata, Jr. which was the subject of an agreement reached on 18 April 1973 between the CSFR Government and the Canadian Government on settling financial issues."

Slovak Deputies Critical of Presidential Proposals

AU1701163491 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 10 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Antonia Vymazalova and Frantisek Melis report: "In the Firing Line of Deputies' Criticism"]

[Text] Bratislava—CSFR Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky traveled to Bratislava yesterday to inform Slovak parliament deputies about two proposals presented by President Havel in the Federal Assembly on 10 December 1990. These proposals involve the passing of constitutional laws on constitutional courts for the CSFR, the Czech Republic, and the Slovak Republic and a nationwide referendum. The briefing took place at a joint meeting of the Slovak National Council [SNR] committees which was chaired by its first deputy chairman Ivan Carnogursky.

The people's representatives in the SNR reacted as energetically to Pavel Rychetsky's explanatory statement yesterday as Federal Assembly deputies—and consequently citizens—had reacted to the president's proposals. According to the deputy prime minister, the main reason for the adoption of both proposals is our move forward on the road toward a democratic, law-governed state and the improvement of our parliamentary democracy. He cited the reasons given by the president. First and foremost, it is a fact that in our legal system, there are no suitable constitutional means for resolving the constitutional crises that threaten us. Therefore, according to the president, we are literally empty-handed in this regard. Both proposals are intended to fill the considerable gaps in our valid constitutional system and to strengthen democratic principles for the functioning of our society. That is, the submitted proposals do not involve increasing presidential authority—which the president had requested at the Federal Assembly meeting in December—but merely involve filling the existing constitutional gaps.

The Purpose and Function

As far as constitutional courts are concerned, it is essential to establish them. At the moment, there is no effective legal recourse independent of the state that would make general supervision of the law possible. The submitted proposal introduces some classic—even identical—principles from the unimplemented 1968 constitutional law on the Czechoslovak Federation, principles on the concept for a constitutional court; however, the proposal differs on some points.

Another function of the constitutional court, according to Rychetsky, is to find solutions to jurisdiction disputes that could—without its existence—shift from a legal level to a political one. The submitted proposal also gives consideration to granting authority to the constitutional court to make decisions on disbanding political parties and movements if they conduct their activity throughout the CSFR.

In contrast to the president's proposal for the establishment of three constitutional courts, Pavel Rychetsky presented his own idea for the establishment of a federal constitutional court. He supported this idea by explaining its absolute independence of judicial and executive authority and of all state organizations, as the constitutional court will administer justice to them and

will arbitrate among them. It must not be associated with the operation of any state mechanisms.

At the end of his speech, the federal deputy prime minister spoke about certain shortcomings in the submitted proposals; for example, the non-specification of salaries for constitutional court judges. The federal government has suggested that the proposal include the principle that salaries for constitutional officials be determined by law.

Confusion in Conclusion

Following the comprehensive statement, which was exhausting for the deputies, there began a bombardment of comments and suggestions. Ivan Carnogursky (Christian Democratic Movement) conveyed the point of view adopted by the commission preparing the Slovak Republic Constitution and by the SNR Presidium on the necessity of establishing three constitutional courts in view of the existence of two autonomous republics. He suggested that the federal constitutional court should only be given jurisdiction that does not violate the republics' sovereignty.

Eduard Barany (Communist Party of Slovakia-Party of the Democratic Left) came up with several well-founded suggestions. He proposed the establishment of a constitutional court after the three constitutions have been adopted because, if it were to be established beforehand, the constitutional court could find itself at variance with some resolutions contained in the current constitution and could influence the formulation of the republican constitutions or, alternatively, it could revoke them. He spoke in favor of electing judges for one term in office—for life—so that their behavior prior to the end of a limited term in office could not be influenced by the composition of political forces in the Federal Assembly.

Olga Keltosova conveyed a number of comments from the Democratic Party leadership. It also does not agree with the establishment of a constitutional court prior to the adoption of the constitutions. It does not agree that the chairman of the constitutional court should be given two votes in the event of a hung vote. The democrats are inclined toward the establishment of three constitutional courts.

Slovak National Party deputies—Anton Hrnko, Stefan Kvietik, and Ladislav Porubec—had particularly grave reservations about the passing of a constitutional law on a nationwide referendum. They consider this to be a proposal in favor of the establishment of a presidential state which is unsuitable for our federation composed of two republics. Other deputies were also critical about this issue; however, they left it up to the individual committees to discuss the issue further. In essence, they agreed with the establishment of three constitutional courts and with the introduction of a referendum, but in a different form than suggested in the submitted proposal.

Pavel Rychetsky reacted to the deputies' statements at the end of the meeting. It seemed that there was a misunderstanding about the substance of their ideas that had caused confusion.

Slovak Communists on Situation in Lithuania, Gulf

AU1701142391 Prague CTK in English 1421 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Bratislava Jan 15 (CTK)— Slovak communist leader Peter Weiss condemned Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel's statement that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev was not keeping up with events in the Soviet Union, at a press conference here today.

President Havel's remarks, broadcast on Czechoslovak Television this Sunday, were made in reference to the Soviet intervention in the Lithuanian capital of Vilnius this weekend.

Weiss took a very cautious position on the Soviet intervention, saying not enough information was available yet. For the same reason, he declined to compare the current situation in Lithuania with the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Peter Weiss is chairperson of the Slovak Communist Party of the Democratic Left, one of the three strongest parties in the Slovak Parliament.

Weiss also condemned employees of Czechoslovak Television, who interrupted Sunday evening's broadcast of the Soviet news program "Vremya" with the justification that it was not giving objective information about the situation in the Baltic republics.

The main question is whether the Soviet Union will continue to exist as a multinational state or whether it will break up, according to Weiss. "No reasonable politician would wish for an uncontrolled breakup of the USSR", said Weiss, adding that the breakup of the Soviet Union could destabilize the international situation.

The Slovak communist leader pronounced himself against a military solution to the Gulf crisis, noting that communist deputies in the Czechoslovak federal assembly voted against sending a Czechoslovak unit to the region. (a 180-strong decontamination regiment has been in Saudi Arabia since mid-December.)

Considering neutral status for Czechoslovakia would be premature, as would withdrawing from the Warsaw Pact or entering the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance, said Weiss adding that issues of European security must be resolved first. For Czechoslovakia to take unilateral steps such as these without consulting its former allies would be destabilizing, he emphasized.

Ministry Statement on Unemployment in Slovakia

AU1701115191 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 10 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Statement by Jan Sabo, press secretary of the Slovak Republic Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs: "End of an Illusion; How Many Unemployed in the Slovak Republic?"]

[Text] There is a new phenomenon in our society: unemployment. It kept growing during the 1990's.

There were 53,052 citizens in the Slovak Republic last year who were unemployed and applied for a job mediation at labor exchanges. Of those 53,052 citizens, 33,521 satisfied the conditions set in the regulations pertaining to welfare payments and were paid 125.7 million korunas and an additional 8.7 million korunas in the form of various allowances, including 8 million korunas in family allowances.

As of 31 December 1990, the Slovak Republic labor exchanges had 37,586 job seekers on record which, in relation to the number of working-age people, represents an unemployment rate of 1.2 percent. Of these, 40 percent are concentrated in East Slovakia. The unemployment rate in Bratislava was 0.9 percent, in West Slovakia one, in Central Slovakia 1.1 percent, and in Eastern Slovakia 1.7 percent.

The highest unemployment rate at the end of last year was found in the following districts: Kosice-City 3.0 percent, Rimavska Sobota 2.9 percent, Michalovce 2.4 percent, Velky Krtis 2.1 percent, Trnava, Bardejov and Roznava 2.0 percent, Trebisov 1.9 percent, Poprad 1.8 percent, Humenne and Spisska Nova Ves 1.7 percent, Banska Bystrica 1.6 percent. The total of 37,586 unemployed in the Slovak Republic included 18,759 women.

The share of the Romany population in the number of unemployed is very large—22.3 percent with 31.9 percent in East Slovakia. Although the absolute number of 8,378 unemployed Romanies in December is 679 higher than in November, the rate of growth compared to the total number of unemployed declined.

The number of unemployed school graduates declined marginally in comparison to November, and as of 31 December 5,726 of them were registered. The professional structure gradually changed as the year progressed. Laborers had a 53-percent share in April, 46 percent in July, and 41 percent in October, but their share grew again at the end of the year, reaching 48 percent.

The educational structure of unemployed at the end of the year was 15.6 percent university graduates, 36.6 high-school graduates, and 47.9 percent people with lower education. This structure was strongly diversified by individual regions. While in Bratislava 50.2 percent of the total number of unemployed were university graduates, in East Slovakia their share was only 7.6 percent, in West Slovakia 16.9 percent, and in Central Slovakia 17.6 percent. The share of high-school graduates was less diversified.

The number of available jobs registered at the labor exchanges declined further and there were only 14,573 jobs available at the end of the year, of which 13,342 were labor jobs.

The expected changes in the labor market that is being created in the Slovak Republic are associated with the ongoing (foreseen) institutional changes; changes to the political, economic, and administrative system; structural changes; and finally with a reorientation of foreign trade. The introduction of the labor market should result in the abandonment of the illusion of a chronic labor shortage.

Antall Says Government 'Prepared' for Gulf War

LD1701123891 Budapest MTI in English 1142 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 17 (MTI)—The Hungarian Government had been in possession of adequate information to prepare itself for any critical turn in the Gulf crisis on Thursday morning and take the security measures needed to protect the population, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall stressed in his interview with the Hungarian news agency MTI on Thursday morning.

The prime minister pointed out that the Hungarian people and government had been hopeful throughout of common sense coming to prevail and the chance of a peaceful settlement taking shape. Unfortunately, however, these expectations appeared to be increasingly unrealistic in the light of the abortive mediatory attempts, he said.

From Wednesday onwards, we felt the turning point was inevitably approaching. The government received all sorts of information, both on Wednesday and before, given to other governments of the coalition, including a message from Secretary of State Baker. I would also add that we have been prepared for the current events with regard to foreign and military policy, as well as in relation to internal security, the prime minister stated.

Antall also said that he had contacted the defence, the interior and the foreign ministers immediately after 1 A.M., simultaneously notifying the president of the Republic. As a result, there was no need for the government to meet during the night as all necessary decisions had been prepared in advance and the ministers assigned to the national security cabinet could go into action without delay.

With regard to the Hungarian medical unit on a humanitarian mission in the Gulf, the prime minister said he had spoken by phone with a member of the group, MP [member of parliament] Dr Gabor Ternak, who had informed him about the situation there.

On this score, the prime minister stressed that by rushing to join the group of countries acting on behalf of international law and the Security Council's platform, as well as by the relevant decisions of the National Assembly and the government, Hungary had proven once again that its participation in international politics was worthy of a European nation, and that it espoused the joint aspirations of the coalition standing for the sovereignty of subjugated Kuwait.

As far as the probable outcome of the war is concerned, Antall continued, judging from reports so far it appears that the American, British and other allied forces carried out a thoroughly prepared, large-scale operation abreast of present-day technical standards which reminds me of the Normandy landings of June 6, 1944.

At the same time, we are sympathizing with those Iraqis who could not help becoming means, and possibly victims, to this policy. Although the war will not probably end with the first strike, we hope it will be a short one, which is a global interest. As the possibility of terrorist actions after the war cannot be ruled out, with Hungary being a potential target, we have taken the necessary diplomatic and internal security counter-measures, Antall stated.

The prime minister pointed out that after the end of the armed conflict not only the Middle East and the Arab world will be subject to a re-arrangement, but a new security system will need to be worked out for the whole region along the lines of the European procedure. In view of the Palestinian issue, a global solution will be required.

Answering a question from MTI's correspondent, Antall confirmed that Hungary had sufficient reserves of energy sources and other goods. In one of my earlier statements on my visit to Paris, I described how astonished the French prime minister had been on hearing that our petrol reserves were usually sufficient for nine days, which shrunk to three-four days before the petrol blockade. As far as I know, Hungary for a long time did not have petrol and fuel stocks sufficient for 50 days, which is now the current situation as a result of the government's well-considered measures, Antall said in his interview with MTI.

Queried on Government Stance

LD1701131891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

["Excerpts" from interview with Prime Minister Jozsef Antall by Andras Dekany for "Television Newsreel" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dekany] Mr. Prime Minister, the Hungarian Government may have rightfully hoped that a political solution would come about. You trusted in every diplomatic effort, mediation; however, did the Hungarian Government expect the political solutions to fail, and that the political solutions would be replaced by military ones in the Gulf region?

[Antall] I could say that we gave the possibility for some kind of political solution a few percentage points; this, however, would have been conceivable, really, only if the Iraqi political regime had collapsed from the inside, or if it had been altered from the inside. Thus, this chance had to be taken into account in the case of a dictatorship linked to one figure. If there had been a real basis for this solution, and if this had been realized, then there would have been a possibility for a peaceful solution. From the first moments on, there was a greater possibility of a military solution; only if this had been changed by an internal political solution could the question of the possibility of a peaceful solution have arisen.

[Dekany] Mr. Prime Minister, how and when were you informed of the news of war?

[Antall] I was still awake when I got the report. I left parliament building rather late, and the minister of defense telephoned me after 0100 hours, and naturally, I spoke afterward with the foreign minister, the minister of the interior, and the minister of defense—that is, the General Staff—and informed the president of the Republic at the same time.

[Dekany] You did not convene the cabinet. What was the reason for this?

[Antall] On the one hand, the reason was that we really had made all preparations yesterday; there would have been no sense in convening the cabinet.

[Dekany] What is the position of the Hungarian Government in this matter?

[Antall] In previous decades, Hungary always supported countries and governments that adapted to Soviet policy in this region, and that acted in harmony with the efforts of Soviet policy at the time. As a consequence, there was no relationship whatsoever with numerous countries. mong these, for example, is Saudi Arabia, with which the so-called socialist countries did not have relations.

For economic reasons, of course, the governments have already done their utmost to improve relations with these countries, too The objective of Hungarian foreign policy is to maintain good relations with Israel. We have done our utmost so the Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union should be able to get to Israel through Hungary. The Israeli Government and several Israeli politicians have thanked the Hungarian Government several times for this; therefore, Hungary, in this issue, has pursued a consistent policy. Furthermore, it has also informed the Arab governments about its open outlook. On the other side, we, of course, wish to maintain good relations with the Arab countries, too; this is why we have given statements that we do not generalize, and we would consider it wrong for there to be a global anti-Arab mood in Hugary. We, therefore, try to have a good relationship with the Arab countries—thus with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Egypt, and other Arab countries. I shall not list all of them. All political slants, therefore, are lies that present Hungary as if it were pursuing some kind of anti-Arab policy and were entirely one-sided.

President Hopes For Short War, 'Lasting Peace'

LD1701134291 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by President Arpad Goncz in Budapest on 17 January—recorded]

[Text] I, together with my fellow citizens, watched with grave concern the long, patient, responsible, and many-sided attempts at solving the Gulf crisis.

Now—following the failure of attempts at peaceful solution—the war has been forced to break out, and I have one hope: that it will be over soon and it will have as few human casualties as possible, because the majority of the casualties of all wars are innocent and the majority of people hate wars. At the time of the first and more fierce attack of the war to restore the order of international law, I wish, with all my heart, the negotiated peace following the war will bring about just and lasting peace in the region. This is the only thing that can compensate for the price of the war, the unavoidable destruction, suffering, and loss of human life.

I am stating this as the president of a Republic participating in the solution of the crisis, first of all keeping in view the relief of human suffering; this is why a medical team has been sent to the region.

Let me draw the attention of the people of the world that the peace of our world, hopefully to be restored before long, is indivisible. The community of nations must not forget for one minute that the region of the Middle East is not the only crisis region, and it is the inalienable right of every nation to choose their own way of life and to achieve, if they wish, their destiny without obstacles.

Government Issues Statement on Gulf War

LD1701202191 Budapest MTI in English 1457 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Foreign Ministry statement issued in Budapest on 17 January]

[Text] Budapest, January 17 (MTI)—The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Hungary on Thursday issued the following government statement:

The Government of the Republic of Hungary, on the basis of her historical experiences and as a matter of principle, is unable to accept actions in flagrant violation of the sovereignty of individual states, rejects all forms of aggression and firmly stands for the maintenance or, if necessary, the restoration of international legal order.

On the basis of these principles, Hungary has deeply condemned the annexation of, and the aggression against, the State of Kuwait in August, 1990. Hungary has been committed to, and has fully implemented, all UN Security Council resolutions regarding the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait in the sincere hope that the united stand of the international community will compel the Iraqi leadership to dismantle the consequences of aggression.

The Iraqi leadership, in defiance of the will of the international community, refused to adhere to the norms and stipulations of international law. Up until the final deadline set by the UN Security Council, Iraq had shown no readiness to withdraw its troops from Kuwait and had given no indication at all that it intended to seek a peaceful settlement of the conflict. All diplomatic endeavours proved to be unsuccessful, all opportunities

to find a negotiated settlement had been exhausted. Thus, the international forces (?in corporating) Arab units deployed in the region have become compelled to make use of the authorization of the UN Security Council to uphold international law and employ all means at their disposal to enforce the mandatory resolutions of the United Nations.

The Hungarian people are aware that war is an undesirable solution to conflicts, a necessary evil even in the most righteous cause. The Hungarian people are, however, also conscious of the lessons of human history: Aggression must be arrested, aggressors must be stopped irrespective of sacrifices.

The Government of the Republic of Hungary sincerely hopes that the military operations aimed at the liberation of Kuwait will remain limited both in time and scope, and will lead to the restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity of Kuwait and the security of all countries in the region with the least possible loss of life and damage. In keeping with her abilities, Hungary will contribute to these efforts, and all steps taken will continue to be aimed only at the elimination of aggression and its consequences, and will in no way be directed against the people of Iraq.

The Republic of Hungary is confident that, in the wake of the just solution of the conflict, new opportunities will open up to restore and enhance cooperation with Iraq and the other states in the region, to create a regional security system and to solve decades old conflicts.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Gulf Crisis

LD1701152991 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with Foreign Ministry Spokesman Janos Hermann by Agota Narancsik; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Narancsik] This morning the interdepartmental working committee held a meeting. I am asking Foreign Ministry Spokesman Janos Hermann what they discussed and what conclusions they reached.

[Hermann] Taking part in the discussion were representatives from the Ministry of Defense, the Ministry for International Economic Relations, the Office of Information, the Office of National Security, the Ministry for Transport and Telecommunications, MALEV [Hungarian Airlines], the Red Cross, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The participants analyzed and compared the information at their disposal and on the basis of this judged that the situation of Hungarian citizens in the Gulf region is reassuring; therefore, there is presently no need for extraordinary measures. If, during the following hours, there is no change in the situation then the committee will meet again in the early afternoon.

Security Tightened at Airports, Power Plants

LD1701132391 Budapest MTI in English 1140 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 17, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—When the Gulf war broke out early this morning Hungary put into action the special measures prepared in advance for such an event.

Lieutenant-General Laszlo Borsits, chief-of-staff of the Hungarian Army, said all Army forces had been put on special alert.

A spokesman for the Hungarian police said that all special police forces had been put on alert and that they also had a special force ready for deployment in case of emergency.

There are armed guards at the Paks nuclear power plant, the oil refineries, the oil pipelines and underground stations in Budapest. Security has been stepped up at government offices and at the embassies of the countries directly affected by the war.

Border checks have been tightened up at all crossing points to Hungary and the border patrols also stepped up, Janos Zubke, spokesman for the Border Guard, told the press.

Flights face some delays at Budapest's Ferihegy Airport due to the special security measures introduced early this morning.

The electricity supply is regular in the whole area of Hungary, with both Soviet electricity arriving and the domestic power plants working as normal.

Gabor Decsi, a senior official of the National Electricity Distribution Centre, said early this morning that Hungarian households received 1,400 megawatt of imported electricity, and domestic supply was the usual 3,735 megawatts. Special security measures have been introduced at the transformer stations and at the country's 11 power stations.

As news of the war broke, the Hungarian oil and gas trust called in people for special duty. A spokesman told MTI-ECONEWS that at this stage the war does not threaten Hungary's oil supply in any way.

Crude oil is flowing normally through the pipeline from the Soviet Union, and shipments of Algerian and Libyan crude have arrived in the Yugoslav port of Omisalj.

At the moment Hungary has crude oil reserves of 700,000 tonnes, enough for at least a month, and refined oil products including car fuel for 40-50 days.

There are no signs of panic buying in Hungary.

Antiterrorist Units on 'Higher Level of Alert'

AU1701130391 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 16 Jan 91 pp 1,5

[Report on telephone interview with Andras Galszescy, minister in charge of the National Security Office and the Information Office in Pecs, by unidentified reporter in Budapest on 15 January: "Hungarian Anti-Terrorist Units on Increased Alert—Galszecsy Wants Uzi Submachine Guns"]

[Text] To what extent is the threat of terrorism realistic, and what is the National Security Office doing to avoid such a danger? We asked Andras Galszecsy about this, among other things. Most of our conversation took place one and a half days before, on 15 January in a telephone interview from Pecs.

The Hungarian units engaged in antiterrorist activities are now working at a higher level of alert than before; if the situation becomes even more tense, we might increase the alert to the maximum level. A higher alert means the units in question have more men on the streets, some foreign embassies are guarded much more intensively, the guarding of the Ferihegy Airport has been intensified, and various security measures are in force at some hotels, measures beyond the routine security regulations. Andras Galszecsy regards the population's help as particularly important.

"The Carlos affair, and the cases of many other terrorists, warn us that one should seek possible terrorists not only among Arabs"—Andras Gzlszecsy said, referring to some statements which, in his view, make slight generalizations. The Hungarian officials are in possession of various personal descriptions and descriptions of the type of passports terrorists might use; national security officials who have an outstanding memory for faces are posted at various key positions, and they practically provide a guarantee that a known terrorist cannot enter Hungarian territory.

Andras Galszecsy found it necessary to stress that, as far as we know, all the underground terrorist organizations in the world are closely cooperating with each other; furthermore, Japanese, European, or other terrorists can be mobilized under the slogan of the Arab cause. Asked whether he knows any Hungarian terrorists, Andras Galzsecsy replied with a firm no and said that there was almost no such tradition in Hungarian history.

At the same time, Andras Galszecsy added that adequate operative measures have been instituted to avoid the possible use of Arab persons living in Hungary for any terrorist activity.

We asked Andras Galszecsy about the results of the exercises carried out at various embassies and at the airport. These exercises proved that the skill of the Hungarian antiterrorist units does not lag behind the international level; however, we cannot say the same of their equipment, at least in connection with the quality of this equipment. "Let us admit openly that the Israeli-made Uzi submachine guns would be better than the current Soviet weapons," Andras Galszecsy said.

Not everyone welcomes the security measures instituted in the National Assembly and in other public institutions. Although it is the workplace of Hungary's three highest officials (the president, the National Assembly chairman, and the prime minister), the legislature building in Budapest was Europe's worst guarded government building; therefore, our Interior Ministry officials worked out strict security measures. Andras Galszecsy also expressed his appreciation for our ties of cooperation with other countries in the struggle against terrorism. "Terrorism is like AIDS: We cannot fight against it without international cooperation." Andras Galszecsy was also asked whether telephone conversations are taped and letters are read today. Andras Galszecsy said that only the justice minister could authorize such surveillance methods today, and practically, no such methods were used against Hungarians. The security officials accept this as a constitutional requirement, although this does not make investigation easier, for example, in cases of unknown persons who keep sending letters containing anti-Semitic threats.

Andras Galszecsy spoke about the activity of the intelligence bodies under his supervision. In view of the Gulf crisis and other international developments, these bodies are definitely not working according to their usual routine. Evaluations and predictions are being prepared for the government on the basis of information arriving from various sources. Without providing details, Andras Galszecsy did not appear optimistic regarding the prospects of a peaceful solution in the Gulf.

Andras Galszecsy also spoke about his interview published in the UJ VASARNAPI DUNANTULI NAPLO [NEW SUNDAY TRANSDANUBIAN DAILY]. Asked whether U.S. airplanes would land in Hungary in connection with the Gulf crisis, Andras Galszecsy said the Hungarian National Assembly has authorized the possible traffic of airplanes carrying sick people and wounded through Hungary.

Civilian Forces Alerted Against Terrorist Attacks

LD1501202691 Budapest MTI in English 1653 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 14 (MTI)—The civilian defence forces have already worked out plans in the event of natural or technical disasters or terrorist attacks in Hungary.

In case of sabotage, members of the civilian defence forces, currently on alert, can act in accordance with drawn-up plans, Endre Sztanek, national commander of the forces, informed MTI.

Alert has been stepped-up at places of special importance, e.g. the Paks nuclear plant and the Szazhalombatta oil refinery, the commander added.

If any kind of need arises, in the event of any kind of disaster, the civilian defence forces can take the necessary steps to protect or evacuate the population of the area immediately.

National Assembly To Tighten Security Measures

LD1501214191 Budapest MTI in English 1419 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 14 (MTI)—From Monday onwards, security measures will be tightened in the Hungarian parliament building in keeping with practices in other European countries.

Those entering at Gates 1 and 6 will be screened and, if need be, searched, along the lines of airport security procedure.

The decision followed an analysis by home office experts revealing that in no other country in Europe was entry into parliament building as easy as in Hungary.

Guided tours of parliament have also been terminated for security reasons.

Jeszenszky Summons Soviet Envoy; Lithuania Viewed

LD1501212391 Budapest MTI in English 1837 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 14 (MTI)—Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky summoned the Soviet ambassador to Hungary, Ivan Aboimov, to the Foreign Ministry on Monday.

The minister expressed the worries of the Hungarian nation to Aboimov over the military intervention in Lithuania and the consequent loss of civilian lives, Foreign Ministry spokesman, Janos Herman told MTI.

Jeszenszky stressed Hungary's intention to preserve the recent favourable changes within the world and within Europe. On the basis of its experience, the Hungarian public cannot accept the argument that Soviet military troops intervened upon the request of Lithuanian officials, the minister said.

Hungary is striving to maintain good relations both with the Soviet and the Lithuanian Governments, Jeszenszky stressed, asking Aboimov to forward Hungary's request to Soviet authorities not to hinder the Hungarian Red Cross organization in sending medicine and health care equipment to the Lithuanian people.

Ambassador Aboimov laid out the official Soviet view in connection with Lithuania, saying that the Lithuanian leadership was responsible for the tensions in the republic.

Soviet leaders have started an investigation in order to establish those responsible for the bloodshed, the ambassador said.

MDF News Conference Views Gulf, Lithuania

LD1701153491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] At the Hungarian Democratic Forum [MDF] news conference, tension in the Baltics was also discussed. Janos Hollos reports:

[Hollos] Imre Konya, MDF faction leader, thinks the situation evolved because of the Gulf war, which is of historic significance from two points of view. First, because this is the first time the whole world has taken a united stand on the side of a small country which has suffered aggression. Second, this is the first occasion in many long decades that Hungary can take an independent stand, one free from outside influence, in an international crisis.

At the news conference, members of the MDF who visited Lithuania also gave a report. In their view, the illusion of perestroyka has come to an end. It has irrevocably come to light that perestroyka is nothing other than imperial reform politics, which has not for a second given up the principle of the empire. Leaving Eastern and Central Europe only took place because the empire was weak.

Finally, Imre Konya, in connection with the two crises said that at last, united national politics can be created, for in the evaluation of both the Lithuanian question and the Gulf war, there is no significant difference among the parliamentary parties.

Prime Minister Comments on Gulf War Impact

LD1701130891 Warsaw PAP in English 0959 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—Asked to comment on a possible economic impact of the Persian Gulf war on Poland, Polish Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki said that the assesments of the economic effects would depend of the duration of the war.

I also hope that this war will not become yet another obstacle for Poland in the period of her reconstruction, he added.

Skubiszewski Issues Statement on Gulf War

LD1701150191 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1300 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Immediately following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the Polish Government unequivocally condemned that act of aggression and violation of international law, says a statement issued by Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski in connection with the start of military action in the Persian Gulf region.

Poland conformed to the resolution of the UN Security Council concerning the crisis in the Persian Gulf. Poland cooperated with the international community in its efforts to achieve a peaceful solution to the crisis and to persuade Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. Unfortunately, the statement continues, a peaceful resolution of the conflict has proven to be impossible due to the stand of Iraq which refuses to withdraw its armed forces from Kuwait. The behavior of Iraq has led to the armed action, which has the approval of the UN Security Council.

The Polish Republic expects the armed action to last a short time. We are convinced that during this action international law will be observed, and especially that the civilian populations of Iraq and other states of the Near East will take advantage of the defense due them, declares Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski's statement issued in connection with the start of military action in the Persian Gulf region.

Minister on Gulf, Baltics, Soviet Troop Pullout

LD1701123991 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0700 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Under the title, "The Permanency of Poland's Aims in a Stormy World," ZYCIE WARSZAWY publishes an interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs Krzysztof Skubiszewski. In reply to the question to what degree a war in the Gulf could change world politics insofar as it would also influence the Polish situation, the minister replied: Stipulating that this is an analysis for today, I do not think that this conflict would have any influence in the near future on the position of the Polish State in relation to other European States and outside of Europe. To what extent the Soviet intervention in Lithuania might and ought to influence Polish-Soviet relations was the next question asked. Can our country afford to take decisive action when our Western partners have their hands tied by the conflict in the Persian Gulf? [word indistinct] exists, but it is difficult to define, Krzysztof Skubiszewski maintains. We are talking and holding negotiations with the Soviet Union on various matters. They are sometimes sufficiently complicated enough in themselves that it is not worth attempting to avoid additional complications. If it is a question of our reaction, it was clear and decisive. Other states acted carefully, some used strong words, but words will not result in any progress here.

On the stationing and withdrawal of the Soviet Army, the minister stated that it is a matter which has its own great significance. It is first and foremost a Polish-Soviet issue, although we have a certain contact with the Germans as a result of the transit of the armies from the former GDR. If we are talking about the evacuation of the Soviet forces from Germany to the Soviet Union, then we are only asking for the conclusion of an agreement on this matter, as there are going to be additional movements in very large numbers, and this needs to be regulated. The normal, what is sometimes called routine, transit from Germany to the Soviet Union, and vice versa, has been going on for years without any problem; therefore, there is no reason for formulating unfavorable opinions for Poland. Poland must have good relations and close cooperation with both its Eastern and Western neighbors, Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski stated at the end of the interview talking about the fundamental lines of Poland's foreign policy.

Skubiszewski Meets Ambassadors of Baltic States

LD1701230391 Warsaw PAP in English 2045 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—Polish Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski met with heads of the missions of Baltic states accredited to Warsaw. The meeting was attended by head of the Sejm (lower house) Foreign Committee Bronislaw Geremek.

This was the first meeting in Warsaw of representatives of Baltic states. They discussed the development of closer and comprehensive co-operation in the Baltic region, and forms of contacts that had been established with the "Pentagonale" group and possibilities for their continuation.

Government Spokesman Issues Statement on Lithuania

LD1601092891 Warsaw PAP in English 2130 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Statement by Government Spokesman Andrzej Zarebski on 15 January; place not given]

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 15—Polish Government Spokesman Andrzej Zarebski today released a statement which reads:

"The use of force against the Lithuanian nation has encountered an unanimous condemnation and protest in Poland which are reflected in statements of major political forces and in spontaneous rallies and pickets in front of Soviet missions and institutions.

"Reports are received every day that medicines, clothes, and money are being raised to aid the Lithuanians. The government welcomes with recognition these public initiatives that give the solidarity between our nations not only a political and moral, but also material dimension. It is a highly desirable supplement to declarations made by Polish politicians.

"We maintain the determination of government administration bodies to help in delivering the aid to where it is addressed," reads the government spokesman's statement.

Commentary Examines Gorbachev's Role in Lithuania

AU1701120391 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 15 Jan 91 p 5

['C.B' commentary: "What Is The President's Role?"]

[Text] A harsh international reaction and strong opposition from democratic forces at home, backed by Boris Yeltsin's authority, to the armed intervention by Soviet military units in Lithuania seem to be stopping any further pacification activity in Vilnius. Reports of a telephone conversation between President Landsbergis and Mikhail Gorbachev bring a ray of hope that there will be no more bloodshed.

Also significant, though lacking in credibility, are the efforts of the Defense Ministry and KGB to blame the local Soviet military garrison in Lithuania for the shooting of civilians. All this may open the door for Gorbachev to avoid responsibility for the Vilnius tragedy. In the West, there are efforts to preserve doubts about Gorbachev's personal role in giving the orders for the pacification. The FINANCIAL TIMES, in addition to a few other Western papers, asks how much control the USSR president now has over the military complex, and suggest that he might be threatened by those military forces that oppose his reforms. REUTERS cites a statement by Georgiy Arbatov, a key expert on international affairs, indicating that "representatives of the Army and defense industry, enjoying a strong position in parliament, the government, and the Communist Party, are leading a firm attack on the reformist wing and on Gorbachev's perestroyka and foreign policy. Important representatives of the military-industrial complex, threatened by budgetary cuts and frustrated by the collapse of the empire, are aiming to discredit Gorbachev's policies."

It is difficult to say to what extent these views and speculations even partly explain what is happening in the Kremlin. Nevertheless, it is worth drawing attention to the questions being asked around the world about Gorbachev's role in the latest events in Lithuania, because these questions show that the West, especially the United States, do not want to put an end to cooperation with Gorbachev, especially in the face of the Persian Gulf crisis.

In turn, for the Soviet president and democratic forces, and even for his rival Boris Yeltsin, a sharp condemnation of the use of force in Lithuania, together with the threat that the EEC will stop food aid to the USSR, may prove instrumental in consolidating the forces that wish to crush the political and economic reforms in the state.

President Walesa's Foreign Trips Postponed

LD1701141891 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1310 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Because of the tense international situation, the Holy See and the Polish Republic have decided to postpone the visit of President Lech Walesa to the Vatican. Also, the president's press spokesman stated that, for the same reasons, no other foreign trips by the president are being considered.

National Defense Minister on Army Budget, Gulf

AU1701152591 Warsaw POLSKA ZBROJNA in Polish 14 Jan 91 p 3

[Interview with Vice Admiral Piotr Kolodziejczyk, minister of national defense, by Janusz B. Grochowski in Warsaw; date not given: "The Budget is The Point of Departure"]

[Text] [Grochowski] Admiral, on behalf of POLSKA ZBROJNA readers, I congratulate you on your reappointment as minister of national defense, all the more so because I understand there were civilian "competitors" for this post. President Walesa had the last word, however, and he decided to give you this post once again.

[Kolodziejczyk] You know more than I do. I admit that the president personally suggested that I continue to hold this post. That is natural; after all, he is the head of the Armed Forces.

[Grochowski] Before you agreed to run for this post, you talked to both Lech Walesa and Jan Krzysztof Bielecki. What is their approach toward the country's defense?

[Kolodziejczyk] My impression is that the president and new prime minister understand the country's defense needs. I do not mean to say that the previous government ignored these needs. My talks were very brief; they concerned personnel decisions, but a certain path of change in the Armed Forces was also hinted at. I personally accept these changes and use them as a basis for optimism.

[Grochowski] To what extent will the appointment of a new government affect defense policy?

[Kolodziejczyk] I think the change of government will exert a positive effect on this policy, especially because the European and world situation has changed drastically. The dangers have become more tangible, as it were, which means that some decisions must be made faster and some processes accelerated.

[Grochowski] What do you have in mind?

[Kolodziejczyk] The same problem all the time, one that affects everyone in the Armed Forces—work on a new model of the Armed Forces. Drawing up such a model is one thing, and implementing it is another; the implementation depends on the budget, and the situation with the budget is not very good. It is good that the National Defense Commission has rejected the previous government's proposal and pointed out that more should be spent on defense. That is a good sign that work on restructuring the Armed Forces will be accelerated, although final decisions have not yet been made because the budget will not be discussed until the next Sejm session.

[Grochowski] Do you hope that the suggestions of deputies, which conform to the wishes of the Ministry, will be approved?

[Kolodziejczyk] Yes, even though we are Polish citizens and we realize the country's situation. I am an optimist; I will bring this optimism to the Sejm and fight for what is needed to defend Poland.

[Grochowski] What if, despite everything, the Sejm adopts the level of military spending suggested by the previous government?

[Kolodziejczyk] That would slow down the modernization of the Army. The difference between the amount suggested by the Council of Ministers and the amount suggested by the government stems from a new way of settling accounts with the suppliers of military equipment; as a result, equipment is now eight times more expensive. To offset this, some 3.5 trillion zlotys are required. The government has simply struck this sum of money off the military budget. There is also the question of introducing new regulations into the field. We have to pay local authorities rent for land and buildings, which is also a serious burden on the Defense Ministry budget. The sum of money we want would be enough to maintain last year's level of implementing processes, but the sum of money the Council of Ministers wants to give us would reduce our possibilities by over 10 percent. That is a very big difference.

[Grochowski] Prime Minister Bielecki has addressed the Sejm three times in the course of a few days, but he has not said much about defense. That may create the impression that he accords defense secondary importance.

[Kolodziejczyk] By placing the emphasis on economic affairs, the prime minister has acted pragmatically, because how much money can be spent on the Army depends on how much money has been generated by the economy. In other words, a healing of the economy will be good for the budget sphere, as well as the Armed Forces. The fact that he does not say too much about the Army is good, because the Army is an institution that does not lend itself to complete openness, and this is a subject matter so complex that it is difficult to go into details. The prime minister discussed generalities, and I think that was the right approach. Defense matters were accentuated in the prime minister's Sejm expose, and I personally do not think anything was missing.

[Grochowski] Do you intend to make any changes to your policies in connection with the new situation?

[Kolodziejczyk] Some changes will certainly be necessary as soon as life itself creates the need to make them. One cannot adopt a stiff and inflexible program that does not take into account the changes around us, although right now it is difficult to say what direction these changes will take. However, everything depends on money. Depending on the size of the budget, we will either speed up or slow down the attainment of certain stages.

[Grochowski] In his Sejm expose, Jan Krzysztof Bielecki said the reforms must possess a human dimension, though that applies mainly to the economic sphere.

[Kolodziejczyk] It also applies to the Army. I would like to make that very clear, because I am aware of the moods inside the Armed Forces. I perceive doubts and misgivings among Army cadres, because so far every single process of restructuring has caused inconvenience, and even led to human drama. That is why when we create new military garrisons in eastern parts of the country, first of all we will build new barracks, housing districts, and an infrastructure, and only then will we move military personnel there and start increasing the combat readiness of the newly-formed units. Not the other way around. We do not intend to send anyone to live without a roof over his head.

[Grochowski] When listening to reports on your hearing before the Sejm commission, I accidentally overlooked your statement that you did not want to discuss the details of Army reorganization in case military cadres became upset. That was interpreted as a manipulation of information.

[Kolodziejczyk] That is a reaction caused by old ways of thinking, something we have to leave behind. Things have to be viewed more soberly today. The general facts are obvious, but the details have yet to be established slowly. We are still seeking the best solutions by making all kinds of comparisons. When the decisions are made in June, we will not rush into action like a fire brigade, we will act methodically, step by step. Of course, every single relocation of even the smallest unit involves moving personnel, some of whom may have already

established a firm existence in the old garrison. The wife's job, the children's school, one's own small business or plot of land—no one wants to lose these things forever. That is indeed a reason to be afraid, but why cause unnecessary emotion and talk of these things when no decisions to move have been made yet? This is a time when we have to concentrate on the important defense matters, intensive training, tidying up military life—everything that contributes to combat readiness.

[Grochowski] I realize this secrecy is because you do not want rumors to spread around the Armed Forces.

[Kolodziejczyk] Of course. There is no purpose in speculating. The final decisions will be made in June, and then everyone will know where he will end up. In any case, the new model of the Armed Forces is not being discussed behind closed office doors, but during broad consultations with military commands. In turn, each command discusses the changes with all the personnel in it. Nothing is determined our of context with reality. We want all these changes to be genuine, that they fit not just the map on the wall, but also the reality in the field.

[Grochowski] Admiral, Wednesday marks the end of the UN ultimatum to Saddam Husayn. What development of events do you expect?

[Kolodziejczyk] Two scenarios for resolving this problem are possible, and both are bad. Of course, war is the worse scenario. That would have far-reaching economic and ecological consequences, not just for the region, but also for the whole world. That region has almost 70 percent of the world's oil. The press has probably already said that oil installations in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been mined. One must expect the Iraqi leader to decide to take this desperate step and, in a critical situation, order them to be blown up. It is enormously difficult to extinguish one blazing oil fire, to say nothing of hundreds of such fires. What about the other consequences?

[Grochowski] What about the other scenario?

[Kolodziejczyk] The problem remains unresolved. Husayn hastily withdraws from Kuwait, preserving his military potential, which is still the most powerful in this region. The allies suddenly lose their purpose of maintaining such a large group of forces in the Gulf; furthermore, a repetition of August 1990 could occur at any time. If the Americans remain in the Gulf, however, a different kind of process could begin. The Arab world, whose stance on this conflict is not unanimous, begins to develop an anti-American posture. A Gordian knot, which is difficult to undo, develops. For many years, the region remains the hotbed of a world conflict.

This ulcer is festering, and sooner or later it will have to be removed. The UN secretary general has gone to Baghdad with an idea he has advocated for a long time, i.e. deploying forces in the Gulf under the UN flag. Of course, a peaceful operation by UN forces would not solve the problem completely, but merely postpone a final solution. Nevertheless, it would give the politicians and diplomats more time.

[Grochowski] Our military involvement in this region is minimal, even symbolic. If UN forces were to be set up, would Poland be ready to donate a contingent?

[Kolodziejczyk] I am not the right person to ask, because this is a political matter. As defense minister, however, I think such an eventuality ought to be considered and approved.

[Grochowski] We have been fascinated by the changes in our country, the autumn of the people, and the East-West detente, as a result of which we believe we have attained peace once and for all.

[Kolodziejczyk] What do you mean by we?

[Grochowski] Most of society.

[Kolodziejczyk] That is also the fault of people like you who work for the media. Anyone who has made a sober assessment of the development of the situation has had to consider various scenarios, and right now we are facing one of them. Let us hope the Lithuanian drama is not the prelude to a great tragedy with incalculable and unimaginable consequences, for Poland and the world.

[Grochowski] What is the conclusion for our defense policy?

[Kolodziejczyk] Apart from essential emergency decisions, it is essential to achieve as quickly as possible a readiness to defend all our borders. The political situation is changing so quickly that that is the only possible solution to adopt in the long run. No other solution will do, but for that we need money.

[Grochowski] In other words we are back to where we started this interview. Thank you.

Prime Minister Interviewed on Government's Future

AU1701132291 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 10 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Interview with Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki by Bozena Wawrzewska and Dariusz Fikus; place and date not given: "A Contest of Forces"]

[Text] [RZECZPOSPOLITA] In your Sejm expose you said we are forming a normal cabinet. What do you mean by that?

[Bielecki] I meant that normal criteria are being applied when forming this cabinet. When Prime Minister Mazowiecki was forming his government, he had to concentrate on a complicated contest involving a skillful handling of the forces that were competing for ministerial posts. In that coalition government, the PZPR [Polish United Workers Party] staked a claim to some of the more important posts, at least at the beginning. It demanded not just the interior minister and defense

posts, but also the post of foreign minister. In that way it wanted to push the Mazowiecki government into the most difficult sphere of action, i.e. the economy. The prime minister also had to consider the compromise reached with the ZSL [United Peasant Party] and SD [Democratic Party].

In my view, normality means being able to apply universal criteria when choosing one's cabinet. The first criterion is qualifications, in a Polish context, of course. After all, we have only just left communism behind, and after 45 years of this system one's formal education fails to conform to one's practical abilities.

The second criterion is a recognition of the program that is generally labelled democracy and a market economy. It may sound banal to say this, but a genuine recognition by the cabinet of these values as the supreme objectives of government work is a condition for the success of the reform.

The third matter is an ability and desire to work in a team. Good rapport between ministers is important and must permit collaboration and coordination, especially in the initial period of my government, when the structure of the cabinet is still a leftover from the old system of state administration and does not conform to the economy.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] In your first speeches you said that the emerging government would exist for three months. People say, however, that in Poland anything that is provisional lasts longer than anything else.

[Bielecki] I put it differently. I said that this would be a government with a brand new beginning, my appointment, and a brand new finale, a free parliamentary election. Parliament has decided that by the end of March, a date for the election will be fixed and a timetable of political preparations drawn up. These will include new election rules. Right now the Sejm is clearly in favor of undertaking this debate as soon as possible. So life itself will determine when the first free parliamentary election since the war will put an end to my term as prime minister. That does not mean, however, that I consider my tenure as something provisional, in the negative sense of the word, because that would signify an attempt to survive. I am pragmatic, and I view my mission in terms of responsibilities.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] You want this to be a government of all people, the whole of society. Whose support are you counting on the most? Among which groups should this support be sought?

[Bielecki] One should try to draw into cooperation most of all those who have been apathetic until now and have seen no prospects for themselves. I will try to address my policies to young people in particular. By supporting their visible desire to raise their qualifications and giving them a chance to succeed, one can create not so much a group of political allies as a class of people who understand our reformist way of thinking and are able to emulate it. Of course, I dream of gaining the support of the middle class. For me that is a natural base that will expand once we have succeeded in implementing many changes beginning with small scale privatization.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What do you think of society's moods? What conclusions do you draw from all the surveys carried out during and after the presidential election?

[Bielecki] The election revealed in quite a brutal way the difference between what those in power think of society and what society thinks of those in power. Both sides were disappointed. If we want to accelerate the reforms now, society cannot remain in the role of a spectator or else all of a sudden it will cease to understand the processes taking place, and some people foresee a return of communist rule. Until now, such a passive attitude on the part of some people was the result of the jargon which was incomprehensible to the average person. A citizen does not care whether an inflation indicator of 0.5 is normal or not. He does not have to know what balance of payments and interest rates mean. After all, people know very well whether things are better or worse, and whether or not new chances in life are appearing before them.

The election also revealed the power of television, whereby some reporters got themselves in a complete mess with what is commonly known as the provision of information. Attempts to steer people's views failed. Society refused to trust such a policy.

Notice that despite such an intensive campaign against Tyminski, the number of votes he received during the second round of the election remained practically the same as before. In other words, there is an enormous group of Poles who believe in nothing at all.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Judging by the result of the election, the state of communications between people is terrible. How do you intend to communicate with people to avoid mistakes?

[Bielecki] Well, I certainly have no intention of manually controlling the press or television. The way to communicate with people will depend on the degree of the mass media's independence. The Radio and Television Committee's efforts to speed up the work of the Workers Publishing Cooperative Liquidation Commission means that the media will quickly free themselves of a monopoly that was under state control and will become privately-owned and more independent. A major task for the government will be to convey to them information about its work. What is needed is quite simply a constant dialogue with society, an exchange of opinions, polemics.

Michal Boni points out the need to establish "rapid deployment forces." One can discuss difficult topics and remain adamant. One should begin to communicate, however, before any conflicts arise, or else, and the past

few months confirm this, people will get the impression that if one insists on having one's way, the authorities will concede.

The independent press should pursue a far-sighted policy. It should also rediscover the lost art of providing information. For its part, the government must make journalists interested in its work and see to it that the journalists convey the information to their readership.

We are still very much weighed down by the heritage of communism. Even today a crafty manager is capable of saying: I am an excellent manager, because I have cheated 95 percent of my clients. That is a communist idea. Living on the basis of what there is today, regardless of reputation or professional standards, is a communist principle. Yet it is these very values, reputation, and professional standards that we have to bring back.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] There is an opinion, and not just among journalists, that the center of gravity of politics is shifting to the Belweder. In that case, what political affairs will remain in the government's hands? Can one formulate such an opinion at all?

[Bielecki] That opinion is a commentary on the intention of appointing a political council attached to the president. For some people this is a supraconstitutional body and for others an attempt to expand the political platform to include many milieus that are not represented in parliament. From the government's point of view, the most important thing is for this council to have the freedom to pursue state foreign policy, and an agreement to this effect has been reached with the president. Of course that does not mean the president will not have to intervene when necessary. Right now I have one telephone, which connects me directly with the Belweder, but it has not rung yet.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What do you think your relations with the Sejm will be like? Do you view the present Parliament as an opposition, or as a personal backdrop of support?

[Bielecki] Neither of the two. This Sejm has unanimity when voting for basic issues. I hope this responsible attitude will continue. The Polish reform is in need of several pieces of legislation designed to improve the functioning of the economy. I myself am a deputy, and I know that one can communicate and cooperate with this Sejm.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] You have just one deputy prime minister. Do you not think someone else should take care of the budget, culture, education, and health?

[Bielecki] It seems to me a little dangerous to establish indirect links between the prime minister and his ministers. That could quickly lead to a new bureaucratic structure like the Government Presidium, which effectively prevents a minister from making decisions. Instead, the role of minister should be increased. They should have considerable freedom to choose their colleagues and pursue their policies in their respective ministries.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Do you foresee harmonious cooperation with Leszek Balcerowicz? One can already hear rumors about a conflict in the air between him and liberal economists.

[Bielecki] A different opinion about something is not a source of conflicts, but a topic of discussion, and that is a good thing. We are outsiders. We have seen the economy from a completely different angle. Of course there are things on which our opinions differ. If one compares Leszek Balcerowicz and me, one can conclude that in his view of the economy, he concentrates more on basic economic parameters and on budgetary equilibrium and financial stability, whereas I view the economy in a more dynamic dimension in my aim to encourage enterprise.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] As a liberal, how do you view your cooperation with the trade unions?

[Balcerowicz] We are seeking a compromise. The trade unions are a partner in this contest. Recently, "Solidarity" has been more of a social movement than a trade union and has assumed responsibility over the entire country. On the other hand, Poland has never had any employers in the Western sense. A return to economic normality means the education of a class of employers and employed. Therefore, a new formula of cooperation between them is required. I see the need for a new trade union act, as well as new collective labor agreements and a decentralization of the process of resolving labor disputes. Dialogue certainly will be hard; nevertheless, it must be conducted all the time.

Walesa Appoints Secretary of State, 2 Envoys

LD1701000391 Warsaw PAP in English 2207 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 16—According to the information released by the president's press office Lech Walesa today appointed Teresa Liszcz secretary of state at the president's chancellery, responsible for the economic-social section and the farming section.

The Polish president also nominated today two new ambassadors. Stanislaw Godzinski, 52, lecturer at Warsaw University, Solidarity member since 1980, has been appointed Polish ambassador to Mongolia, and Zdzislaw Ryn, 53, professor of medicine—Ambassador to Chile.

Television Official Describes New Programming

LD1501221691 Warsaw PAP in English 2035 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan 14—New head of the Polish Radio and Television Marian Terlecki told journalists today

that a new model of the Radio and Television Committee is to be worked out within three months.

After reorganization, work on programming will begin. We plan particular changes in the TV Channel 2 where regional stations will have a greater share, Terlecki said.

The changes carried out at present will entail considerable personnel reductions, especially of clerks. But people engaged in making programmes may expect the improvement in working conditions and wages, the TV head announced.

Internal financial control will be stricter. There are justified suspicions that many commercials and special programmes are shot in TV studios and then sold to the TV committee. Hence, the supreme board of inspection NIK has been asked to examine the issue, Terlecki stated.

TV Editors Resign Over New Chairman's Remarks

LD1601091191 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Jacek Snopkiewicz, the editor of the main news bulletin, today resigned from his post. Deputy Editors in Chief Zbigniew Domaranczyk and Kazimierz Zurawski have also resigned. The news editorial team no longer sees the further possibility of cooperation with Marian Terlecki, chairman of the Radio and Television Committee, whose public remarks are making the editing of the news and a fundamental reform of current affairs programs impossible.

New Director Named

LD1601091791 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] In connection with yesterday's resignation of the director and deputy directors of the television news programs, Radio Committee Chairman Marian Terlecki has conveyed to us the following statement:

I was very surprised and sorry to have received this resignation. At the same time, I have to deny most firmly the motivation contained therein, alleging that my conception for the operation of Polish television made it impossble for the directors of the News Programs Directorate [DPI] to continue with reform work. I have taken the post of the head of the Radio and Television Committee with the firm intention of carrying out a intense and quick reform of that institution, which has been awaited for at least a year by both the public and the majority of the radio and television employees. I also interpret this as support for the positive changes in the provision of news services, which were started by the DPI. I thank editor Jacek Snopkiewicz and his colleagues for their work so far. Today, at a meeting with the DPI team, I presented the new director, editor Lech Dymarski.

Iliescu Chairs Supreme Defense Council Meeting

AU1701165991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1615 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17,1/1991—An official communique announced that the Supreme Council for the Defense of the country met on January 17, 1991 under Romanian President Ion Iliescu's chairmanship. Guests to the meeting were the president of the Senate and the speaker of the Assembly of Deputies, Alexandru Birladeanu and Dan Martian, respectively.

The Council valuated the consequences of the beginning of the military operations in the Gulf and approved the measures presented by heads of the departments belonging to that organism for a normal course of the economic and social activity.

The Council learned about the Romanian Government's statement on the beginning of the military operations in the Gulf. At the same time, the Council requested the government to adopt extra control measures for the border traffic as well as to prevent the smuggling of foodstuffs, fuel and other strategical resources. The government was also requested to adopt measures to strengthen the protection of all highly important objectives in the territory as well as of the foreign representations in Romania.

The communique calls [on] the population to support the measures taken by the government to ensure a normal life in the country.

Foreign Ministry on Protecting Citizens in Gulf

AU1701193091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1906 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/01/1991—A crisis cell has been created at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with diplomatic personnel meant to follow up developments in the Gulf, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu, Foreign Ministry spokesman, announced during the weekly news conference, and he added: The cell will watch new developments and action taken by states and groups of states for a solution to the crisis and draw up informative materials and even forecasts on such developments, to be further submitted to the government. Under the circumstances, measures have been taken to defend our country's interests in the Gulf states, chiefly meant to protect Romanian citizens in the region, which is the Foreign Ministry's essential concern at the moment. Our embassies in the states in the area have kept only the strictly necessary number of diplomats. The diplomatic personnel including the ambassador of the Romanian Embassy in Iraq was evacuated on January 15 and moved to Amman. Steps were also taken to bring back to the country all wives and children of Romanian diplomats and of Romanian specialists working under cooperation contracts in that part of the world. Over the last few days the 80 Romanian specialists working in cooperation in the United Arab Emirates and other 27 still working in cooperation in Iraq have also been removed.

Today two planes will be sent to bring back several persons—most of them Romanian citizens resident in Jordan, and their children—who wish to return to the country.

Ambassador Traian Chebeleu also specified that Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs recommended diplomatic missions a number of measures, such as: to reduce as much as possible diplomatic personnel's outdoor errands, especially by night; to inform the Romanian Foreign Ministry's Protocol Department about any travels outside the capital of members of the diplomatic missions so that measures might be taken to protect them; to keep cars carrying "CD" and "TC" plates as much as possible in diplomatic missions' garages and courtyards; and to thoroughly check on participants in various protocol activities, access being permitted only by invitation.

Domestic Activities During Gulf War Discussed

AU1701202791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1934 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/01/1991—Following the meeting of the Supreme Council for the Defense of the Country held in the morning of Thursday, 17 January, Romania's Government gathered the same day in the afternoon to adopt further measures to ensure national security and a normal course of economic and social activities throughout the country in the conditions created by the outbreak of the Gulf conflict.

In that context resolutions were adopted to provide for the improvement and unified coordination of the activity of the relevant bodies at border crossing points, as well as measures to strengthen protection of objectives of national interest, of embassies, consulates and other foreign representations in Romania.

It was also decided that over 20 January-30 April foodstuffs, other consumer goods, fuels be no longer taken our of the country except what one needs when travelling and medicines for one's own use.

The allotment of 5.16 million lei from the budget reserve at the disposal of the Government was approved to cover the expenses occasioned by the temporary residence in Romania of Somali refugees.

Accounts were read of the activities currently carried on in various areas.

PNT-cd Supports Action Against Iraq

AU1701192991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1911 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/01/1991—In a communique sent to the ROMPRES News Agency, the National Christian-Democratic Peasant Party [PNT-cd] learning about the beginning of the military operations in the Gulf "regrets that the spirit of understanding was not manifest." Dictatorships and expansionism can no

longer belong to the civilized world's political conception, the communique reads underscoring: the National Christian-Democratic Peasant Party supports without reserves the resolutions of the UN Security Council on the Iraqi aggression over Kuwait. The democrats in Romania are encouraged by this ample international action of promoting the peoples' and human rights.

Past Dialogue Attempt With Iraq Acknowledged

AU1801104991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0813 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/01/1991—While applying the embargo imposed on Iraq by the UN Security Council, Romania also tried to maintain a dialogue with the Iraqi Government, stated Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ambassador Traian Chebeleu to a news conference in Bucharest. Last September, he said, we received an envoy of the Iraqi president and last December we were visited by a deputy foreign minister of that country, precisely pursuant to our idea to try and maintain the dialogue and help, in this way too, find a political solution in the Gulf.

Roman's Reliance on Soviet Markets Criticized

AU1701171591 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 10 Jan 91 p 3

[Serban Popa article: "A Foreseeable Economic Failure"]

[Excerpts] The Romanian Government (further) banks on the Soviet card.

In a television address to the nation in the last days of 1990, Prime Minister Roman reiterated the main direction of his economic policy.

He said, given the state of our national economy, the government will use the markets we already have because it is very difficult, if not impossible, to penetrate the Western market.

To translate this into understandable words; our dependence on the Soviet Union will continue.

As a matter of fact—this is a significant coincidence—the prime minister made an almost identical statement before last spring's CEMA meeting in Sofia; his statement was made known via television before the CEMA meeting in Moscow.

In light of the fact that the Romanian economy—in spite of appearances that Nicolae Ceausescu tried to maintain for political reasons—practically became the possession of our great neighbor from the East, and that the current leadership took over this inheritance, we consider the prime minister's expressed choice as nefarious, because it programatically predestines us to further remain what we have been for almost half a century. [passage omitted]

It is pointless to add that this subordination ensures the maintenance of the current leadership in power and, what is most serious, also prevents the policy of helping Bessarabia's struggle for independence.

In spite of all this, we foresee the eventual failure of the policy promoted by the Roman Government, which follows the deceptive goal of serving Russian interests with Western money. [passage omitted]

Iliescu Views Visits to PRC, India, Pakistan

AU1701200791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1922 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/01/1991—My visit to the People's Republic of China and the contacts I had in India and Pakistan are in keeping with the general lines of Romania's foreign policy and its opening, already proclaimed on the night of December 22, 1989, toward all countries of the world, President Ion Iliescu said in a statement to ROMPRES.

We have paid particular attention to that first contact between Romania's and China's political leaderships in order to reassess the relations between our countries given the changes that occurred both in Romania and in China lately and to lay the bases of our future relations which have best conditions to expand at all levels, he added, and underlined that a mutual interest exists in creating a new framework for the development of relations between the two countries.

President Iliescu said that new forms had been sought to promote relations and consolidate what had been achieved so far not only in the field of trade but also in economic and technical-scientific cooperation. In that respect, the president added, we have agreed that the coming session of the Joint Commission for Economic Collaboration approach those issues and seek new possibilities for the development of bilateral collaboration. In 1990 the volume of our exchanges was slightly lower especially on the Romanian side, the president pointed out, but that situation is expected to change in 1991 because "China's rich resources and its market are of great interest to our industry."

The same is true for India and Pakistan, the Romanian president said, where I have approached those subjects.

State Secretary Meets Heads of State in Guatemala

AU1701165691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1542 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/1/1991—Romulus Neagu, secretary of state with the Romanian Foreign Ministry, a cabinet member, personal representative of the Romanian head of state to the inaugural of Jorge Serrano Elias as president of Guatemala, was received by the president.

Romulus Neagu conveyed to the Guatemalan head of state a letter from President Iliescu expressing Romania's wish to develop the cooperative relations between the two countries, both on a bilateral plane and in

international life. An invitation was also extended to President Jorge Serrano Elias to visit Romania.

Romulus Neagu also met with Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua, Alfredo Cristiani, president of the Republic of El Salvador, as well as with the heads of other delegations to the ceremonies.

Consultations between the Foreign Ministries of Romania and Guatemala were occasioned by the presence in Ciudad de Guatemala of the delegation headed by Romulus Neagu.

Report on June Events Ready for Council of Europe

AU1601114191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1011 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/01/1991—Alexandru Birladeanu, president of the Romanian Senate, announced on January 16 in plenum that the two reports of the Parliamentary Commissions of Investigation of the events in Tirgu Mures, March, 1990, and in Bucharest, June 13-15, were completed.

He mentioned that it was possible that the two reports be simultaneously conveyed to the Council of Europe and the European Parliament today even, through a parliamentary delegation.

Timisoara Newspaper Threatens To Halt Publication

AU1701205791 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 10 Jan 91 p 1

[Steering Committee of the Romanian Journalists' Association note: "Who Is Killing the Independent Press in Timisoara?"]

[Text] The Association of Romanian Journalists [AZR] has been informed by the editors of the daily, "TIMISOARA," that their paper was allotted eight times less paper than the required amount for the first month of the current year; this is a deliberate act meant to stifle—through administrative means—the freedom of press of the most important opposition paper that is put out in the town on the banks of the Bega. Mr. Sorin Rosca Stanescu, a member of the AZR Steering Committee went to Timisoara to verify the information. The conclusion is that, if the aforementioned decision, which is obviously directed against freedom of press, continues, the newspaper "TIMISOARA" will have to stop its publication soon. This is a very various case and the Romanian Government is blamed for this situation. AZR insistently calls on the prime minister to take appropriate measures—that is, to return the rights of the "TIMISOARA" newspaper's editorial staff. If this does not happen within a week, we will inform the Council of Europe and all the organizations and institutions that are defending freedom of press and with which the AZR has permanent contacts.

The AZR Steering Committee

Timisoara Prefect, Aides Renounce Resignation

AU1701210591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 2036 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/1/1991—Another moral poll took place in Timisoara. After the one week moratorium asked by the resigning leaders of the prefecture and of Timisoara city, during a news conference held on Thursday at noon, that county's prefect, Florentin Carpanu, and his assistants renounced resigning as did the members of the City Mayorship. The reconsideration of the decision made last week was motivated by the fact that the tension of the last few weeks in the county and especially in the city had lessened, that work proceeded normally in industrial enterprises, and the activity in the four higher learning institutions of Timisoara had been resumed.

Ex-King's Press Bureau Communique on Citizenship

AU1701205991 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 10 Jan 91 p 3

[COMMUNIQUE of the Press Bureau of His Majesty the King in Versoiex on 8 January]

[Text] His Majesty King Mihai has taken note with reserved satisfaction of the actions that are being taken to solve the issue of his Romanian citizenship.

The king has always considered that the attacks against his person are, in fact, attacks against Romanian history and tradition. He takes note with satisfaction of the fact that becomes clear now—namely that the denigrating statements made by the Government spokesman after His Majesty's arrival in Romania do not reflect the Government's point of view. As far as the other proposals of the Romanian authorities are concerned, the king is currently studying them with great care.

Versoiex, 8 January 1991

* Jiu Valley Miners Call For National Union

91BA0196A Bucharest REALITATEA ROMANEASCA in Romanian 1 Dec 90 pp 1, 3

["Appeal issued by the League of Jiu Valley Free Trade Unions of Miners to all miners' trade unions to form a national union of miners based on democratic principles"]

[Text] The League of Jiu Valley Free Trade Unions of Miners—a trade union organization established in March 1990 to ensure unity of action among Jiu Valley trade unions for dealing with matters of general interest—is hereby informing the public of certain developments concerning the so-called Federation of Miners Trade Unions in Romania [FMTUR].

Jiu Valley miners were among its first founding members and the federation was formed at the initiative of the league in April 1990 in Petrosani. Together with the other founders, they confidently waited several months

to see the activities of this body yield some results. Unfortunately, however, some of the members of the federation's Coordination Committee disappointed the expectations, being frequently overwhelmed by the multitude of issues and the dynamics of trade union work at a national scale. Lacking the appropriate internal organization and being organized in an unwielding and inefficient apparatus (19 elected members and only one working body made up of three [words illegible], this group cannot fulfill its obligations to the country's miners.

In view of this situation, a special conference of the FMTUR was convened and held on 20 September 1990 for the purpose of adopting amendments to its statute to correct essential organizational deficiencies. Following the amendments approved, the number of elected members will be cut from 19 to nine, and several working commissions of economists, experts in international law, sociologists, etc., will be formed to resolve general issues concerning miners' trade unions.

Faced with the prospect of giving up their positions, some of the members of the Coordination Committee acted incorrectly and patently tried to violate the decisions voted by the conference. In this situation, the representatives of the Jiu Valley miners left the conference and later tried to mediate a new meeting to reinstate the leadership of the federation in a legal and functional framework in accordance with the statute modifications. Agreement could not be reached on the meeting once again because of the behavior of members of the federation leadership.

Consequently, the Coordination Council of the League of Jiu Valley Free Trade Unions of Miners, convened on 20 November 1990, decided:

1. The 34 miners' trade unions that make up the League—representing over 60,000 members—will not recognize the Federation, and affiliated trade unions withdraw their affiliation application.

2. In keeping with the amendments approved by the 20 September conference, the current leadership of the Federation is illegal. Moreover, some of its members are not representative (for example, the chairman of the Federation is contested by his own trade union).

3. The Coordination Council of the League of Free Jiu Valley Miners Trade Unions call on all the miners' trade unions in the country who are aware of the importance of trade union unity for the future of our miners, to get in touch with the Executive Bureau of the League for the purpose of establishing a National Trade Union of Miners upon democratic principles.

Those wishing to join the initiative committee are invited to call 42 533/935 or visit the League Headquarters at the Trade Unions Cultural Club in Petrosani.

Economic Official on First Results of Reform

AU1701112491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1003 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 17/1/1991—After four months of consecutive decrease in the industrial marketable production, in October and November 1990 a recovery process started at steady prices, this being at the end Of November five per cent superior to the level attained at the end of September, shows an article in the government's bulletin written by Mr. Eugen Dijmarescu, minister secretary of state in charge of economic orientation. An analysis of 1982 basic industrial products manufactured by 15 national economic branches shows that in November the physical production, adjusted function of the number of work days, was superior to that obtained in October in 12 branches, with the most significant increases registered in the electric and thermal industry, ferrous metallurgy, chemistry and petrochemistry, garments, paper and pulp.

Worth mentioning is that the trend toward recovering the national economy is backed by other two qualitative elements: the eight per cent productivity growth in the last two months, on the one hand, and the reduction of the electric energy consumption, on the other hand, from an average of 6.2 billion KWH in the first nine months of the year to 5.8 billion KWH in October and November. The influences exerted by the application of higher prices starting November 1, 1990 account for a 109.3 per cent growth of the marketable production in industry as a whole in November as to the prices used till October 31. Taking the physical production as an equivalent in physical production, they were conducive to a 4.7 per cent increase as to October in accordance with the number of work days. Whereas in chemistry and petrochemistry imported purchases led to a 214.5 per cent rise of the retail price index, in the highly transforming branches the evolution of prices is under the average: 83 per cent in the machine building and 59.3 per cent in electronics and fine mechanics. In consensus with the reform, in the last two and a half months, 19 autonomous units have been set up just as 1,000 commercial companies, while from the beginning of 1990, 50,000 small private enterprises and since March 500 joint companies with foreign capital, of which 350 in the last three months. Large foreign companies like Siemens, Colgate-Palmolive, Bouyugues, Jacobs-Suchard, Sucres and Danrees, Marc Rich, Texas Oil and Gas Equipment concluded accords and protocols on investment in Romania. The credit lines opened for retechnologization amount to more than 700 million dollars, while the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund examine with Romanian experts the future programmes to support structural adjustment.

Appeal to Saddam To Withdraw From Kuwait

LD1701150391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1225 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Statement by President Borisav Jovic on 17 January; place not given]

[Text] Belgrade, 17 Jan (TANJUG)— "It is with great disappointment that we have to ascertain the failure of all efforts so far of the entire international community to reach a peaceful political solution and prevent the outbreak of war in the Gulf that unfortunately began last night.

"Our country, which is also chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, did everything within its power to resolve this conflict in a peaceful manner. Until the last moment we cherished the hope that reason would prevail and that it would be possible to avoid the use of force.

"Yugoslavia has always proceeded in its international activities from the firm stance that interference in internal affairs, aggression, and occupation cannot be a method of resolving international disputes. This is particularly unacceptable today, at a time when the world is on the eve of a new era of peace and cooperation, without the confrontations that in previous decades have posed a constant threat to world peace and security.

"Although the armed conflict, which we all wanted to avoid, is under way, it is still not too late to halt it, and to prevent further destruction and further sacrifices.

"Therefore, in this extxremely dangerous situation we again call on President Saddam Husayn and Iraq to accept the decisions of the world organization and begin an immediate withdrawal from Kuwait, whose occupation and annexation led to this tragic development. At this moment this is the only way of avoiding the catastrophe that has begun.

"With the continuation of the war all states of the world community are losing in material, political and all other respects. This objectively poses a threat to the democratic achievements in international relations. It is in the interests of all that we emerge from this situation as soon as possible."

Government Issues Declaration on Gulf War

LD1701202891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1526 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 17 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Government believes that after the outbreak of the Gulf war, efforts should continue to be made for the earliest possible restoration of peace.

In a declaration released on Thursday [17 January] the government notes that the conditions for peace would be created if Iraq left the territory of Kuwait. Then this "hotbed of war and the problems of the region could be tackled by political means, in accordance with the principles of nonalignment and the U.N. Charter."

The declaration recalls that Yugoslavia has done everything, among others in its capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement and in cooperation with the nonaligned and other countries, for a settlement of the Gulf crisis by political, peaceful means.

"Eight hours after the war broke out, Yugoslavia has addressed another appeal to President Saddam Husayn and the Iraqi leadership for Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait," says the declaration.

It points out that "Yugoslavia, committed to peace and to the democratic and humanistic principles of the U.N. Charter and international law, profoundly regrets the outbreak of the Gulf war, which involves tragic victims and substantial material damage, as well as grave moral consequences."

Comments by Croatian President

LD1701151291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1325 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, Jan 17 (TANJUG)—Franjo Tudjman, president of the Croatian republic, assessed today that war in the Gulf, like any war, is the "biggest evil and horror" but a lesson should be drawn from it that those who want to impose by force their will onto others cannot pass unpunished.

Tudjman hoped that the war in the Gulf would end with as few casualties on both sides as possible and that a ray of reason would appear for "peaceful talks at the conference table" to be held.

Tudjman told Croatian TV that the lesson derived from this war were that in the today's integrated world, which strives for democratic order, no self-will or forcing the will onto other states was tenable, just as the case of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait showed.

"To us, this is of special significance because it is also in these European expanses, from the Adriatic to the Baltic and the other way around, that there appear in the same way the tendencies of solving by force the outstanding issues via imposing one's own will," Tudjman pointed out.

Tudjman emphasized that people approach him with fears that "those who deal with the idea of renewing the communist order, who would want to impose the ideas of centralized Yugoslavia, might take advantage of the world preoccupied with the war in the Gulf and try to perform some armed intervention in Croatia and Yugoslavia."

Tudjman stressed that this would not take place and hoped that the Yugoslav problems would be solved according to general agreement.

Zelenovic Asked To Form New Government

AU1701122691 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 16 Jan 90 p 18

[M.B. report: "Dr. D. Zelenovic Asked To Form a Government"]

[Text] Belgrade—Slobodan Milosevic, president of the Republic of Serbia, proposed to the National Assembly to entrust Dr. Dragutin Zelenovic, member of the SFRY Presidency, with the mandate to form a new government. Milosevic explained his proposal by saying that he was convinced that Dr. Zelenovic, considering his work and experience so far, will successfully perform the most important duties of the Serbian Government's work on the promotion of the economic, cultural, and overall development of the republic and its citizens. Dr. Zelenovic accepted the proposal stressing that the new government must be industrious, efficient, and ready to cooperate with all members of the Yugoslav society. The people's deputies supported the proposal with a prolonged applause.

Thirty-Five Citizens Still Remain in Iraq

AU1701193391 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] According to reports that we have at the moment, the Yugoslavs in Iraq and other countries in the region are safe. The Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs has announced that 15 workers of the Djura Djakovica enterprise and 20 workers of the Hidrogradnja firm are currently in Iraq and a way out of the country is now being sought for them.

Working Group Assembly on Country's Setup

AU1801085391 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10 Jan 91 p 1

[TANJUG report: "Draft Declaration Passes Revision"]

[Text] Belgrade—The basic content, goals, and directives of the draft declaration concerning the new organization of relations in the Yugoslav community remained intact. This was stated by Mijat Sukovic, head of the working group of the Constitutional Commission of the SFRY Assembly working on this declaration, commenting on the conclusion of the commission's two day session during which the draft of the act was given "another chance".

According to an earlier ruling made by the working group, this means that future relations in the Yugoslav community will be jointly regulated by the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly and the Assembly of the Republics, while the act will be passed by Federal Chamber of the new, multiparty Yugoslav parliament. This was the main stumbling block at the recent sitting of the Constitutional Commission of the SFRY Assembly as the representatives of Slovenia and Croatia insisted that the matter be left for bilateral discussions among the republican leaderships, without the interference by the SFRY Assembly.

The amended Draft Declaration has retained its original direction, but has done away with certain details that were not only the reason for arguments but also for confrontations. Mijat Sukovic stated that these were, above all, matters that might prejudice the future character of the state, adding that the most important thing at present is not to block any further talks.

Peterle on Chances of Federal Army Intervention

AU1701175791 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE (SEDAM DANA SUPPLEMENT) in Serbo-Croatian 13 Jan 91 p 2

[Interview with Slovene Government President Lojze Peterle by Vojko Flegar; date and place not given: "Secession If Need Be"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Flegar] In the last few weeks, you have often mentioned breaking away from the federation. What is this, what did you mean specifically by this?

[Peterle] In our opinion, federal services do not have the legitimacy for us to negotiate within them on future cohabitation or separation. We are indeed of the opinion that only delegations from the republics can carry out this task. For us, it is the republics that are the subjects. Federal services that have not been elected in free, multiparty elections do not have this legitimacy. Federal services can manage this state in the transitional period, but they cannot be an essential and decisive factor. Republics, as holders of sovereignty, should reach agreement on how to separate, how to divide the debts, property...and what the common denominator of cohabitation is under the new conditions. [passage omitted]

[Flegar] On the basis of the powers that they have according to the federal constitution, the federal services are attempting to save what can be saved, but one gets the impression that they are also overlooking the circumstances that have essentially changed in the last year. In your opinion, how realistic is the danger from Army intervention in this situation?

[Peterle] There is a great chance of intervention. The fact is that the process of democratization has had the least impact on the Army, although it has not been without consequences even there. The Army is a quite homogeneous body that will not be able to work under the new conditions as it has done until now; it will lose some privileges. It is therefore understandable that the Army is striving to maintain the status quo. If we just take into consideration the fact that Yugoslavia's social product fell by a tenth last year and that the Army would have to behave in line with this, we see that there is no willingness to do this. The second reason is indeed ideological. The Army is willing to allow the party to be removed from it, but not to allow depoliticization, too. The Yugoslav situation is therefore determined in many respects by the army component. When I said that the possibility of intervention is great, I certainly did not mean that such action has any chance of success. As well

as the horrible consequences, such action cannot do anyone any good, not even the Army. [passage omitted]

[Flegar] Different opinions exist regarding Slovenia's chances of being internationally recognized. How do you assess them?

[Peterle] I think that the matter has been much easier since the plebiscite and I think that the attitude to Slovenia is already changing. Some states are willing to recognize us as soon as we actually acquire sovereignty....I am therefore not very worried, particularly with the elections in Serbia, because the West realizes that people on Yugoslav territory will have to come to terms with the new reality.

[Flegar] Italy has, on behalf of the EC, supposedly been given the task of "observing" the development of the situation in Yugoslavia and of actually defining the community's stand with the help of its assessments.

[Peterle] Nobody has officially confirmed this, but this seems to be the case.

[Flegar] There is the view that the world is "putting the brakes" on Slovenia more because of the landslide that its example could cause in the Soviet Union than because of Yugoslavia itself!

[Peterle] The Soviet Union is nevertheless quite a way behind Yugoslavia and Slovenia. It is true, however, that the processes there can have more serious consequences for Europe than the processes in Yugoslavia. Particularly if we bear in mind the Soviet nuclear arms which could seriously threaten a wider area if they were not under control. I usually say to Western partners: If you help Slovenia now, then you will save at least one (former) real socialist country from asking you for humanitarian aid. If you force us to artificially link ourselves with the others, however, it could happen that Slovenia will also need this aid.

Markovic Begins Tour of Republics

LD1501195191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1343 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 15 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic on Tuesday began a tour of the Yugoslav republics so as to discuss with the republican governments the minimum of joint functions and policies needed to secure the implementation and functioning of Yugoslavia until agreement was reached among republics on the country's future order.

Markovic is due in Sarajevo on Tuesday where he is to meet with representatives of the Bosnia-Hercegovina government. On Wednesday, he is to meet with leaders of Croatia and Montenegro.

On Thursday he attends the regular Yugoslav Government session, while on Friday the prime minister is to confer with representatives of the governments of Slovenia and Macedonia.

The tour is to end on Monday, after discussions with the government of Serbia.

The minimum of functions, as Markovic warned at a recent session of the Yugoslav state Presidency, not only can but must be attained. Without this, he added, we are really heading for anarchy. The session was described by the Yugoslav press as a beginning of talks on the future of Yugoslavia, following the first postwar multi-party elections in all Yugoslav republics. Apart from the Presidency members, the session was also attended by the top officials of the six republics and two provinces.

Alliance of Socialist Parties Founded 16 Jan

LD1601234691 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2154 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 16 (TANJUG)—The alliance of socialist Parties of Yugoslavia (ASPY) was founded in Belgrade today as an organization assembling the former Socialist Alliance organizations of the Republics of Bosnia-Hercegovina, Montenegro and Macedonia.

The act practically puts an end to the Socialist Alliance of the Working People of Yugoslavia (SAWPY), whose breakup started with the disintegration of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] in January last year.

The SAWPY was founded in 1936 under the name Popular Front. It played an important role in the Second World War as a mass front of patriotic forces against the Nazi occupation and fascistization of the country.

Its role in post-war Yugoslavia was simply a transmission mechanism for the LCY, the ruling party.

The transformation of the SAWPY started two years ago with the introduction of political pluralism, but in the midst of disintegratory processes which enveloped the country broke up into independent republic organizations.

The new Alliance is declaring itself as the political and legal heir of the SAWPY. According to its programme, which was adopted at its founding assembly, ASPY'S principal objectives are "preserving the country's unity and the construction of a democratic socialism."

Dr. Mirko Pejanovic (Bosnia-Herzegovina), was elected president of the coordinating committee and Metodi Petrovski (Macedonia) secretary.

ASPY's founding decision says it is ready to accept into its ranks "as legitimate members the Socialist Parties of Slovenia, Serbia and Croatia, which grew out of SAWPY."

The new Alliance also says it is open to all other socialist parties and movements.

It has also been indicated that ASPY intends to apply for membership in the socialist international.

Statement on Macedonians in Bulgaria, Greece

LD1601232291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2210 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 16 (TANJUG) - The Yugoslav Secretariat for Foreign Affairs issued a statement today stressing that the repetition of the well-known negation of the Macedonian nation has always been the cause of difficulties in Yugoslavia's relations with Bulgaria and Greece and a serious burden to relations in the Balkans.

The statement comes in response to replies given to journalists' questions by Bulgarian Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and his Greek opposite number, Konstandinos Mitsotakis, at a joint news conference in Sofia on January 12, 1991, when both men negated the existence of Macedonian national minorities in their countries.

The Yugoslav ministry underscored that the existence of Macedonian national minorities in Bulgaria and Greece was a historical and verified fact which cannot be changed by anyone's statements or agreements, and that the problem lay precisely in the fact that members of those national minorities were being denied their fundamental rights.

The ministry also said it aroused surprise and regret that such statements could be made at a time when the Balkan countries were through a promotion of their cooperation making efforts to keep in step with positive changes in Europe and to bring their relations completely in line with the principles of the Paris [word indistinct] of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

In parallel with this, Yugoslavia holds that good neighbourly relations in the Balkans cannot be built on the links of some made at the expense of others, but only through democratic relations and dialogue among all parties, with the full mutual respecting of interests based on internaitonal law, and in that context particularly on human rights and those of nations and national minorities, the ministry said.

Serbian National Assembly Elects Officials

LD1701081491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1759 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Jan (TANJUG)—At today's session, the National Assembly of Serbia elected Vukasin Jokanovic, Pavic Obradovic, Radovan Pankov, and Borivoje Petrovic as Assembly vice-presidents. [Passage omitted]

In the continuation of today's session, the National Assembly of Serbia elected the present incumbent, Vladeta Popovic, as secretary general of the Assembly.

Six assembly committees were formed—four permanent and two provisional. The permanent committees are: Mandate and Immunity, Legislative, Administrative, and the Committee for Petitions and Complaints. The provisional committees are the Committee for Drafting The law on the Republican Budget and the Committee for Drafting the Standing Orders on the Work of the Assembly. These two committees will work until 31 March at the latest, by which time these important tasks should be completed.

The committees will hold their first sessions today, at which they will elect their chairmen and reach agreement on their work.

Concluding today's third session of the first sitting of the National Assembly of Serbia, Assembly President Slobodan Unkovic convened the fourth session for 25 January, when it is expected that the law on the government of the Republic of Serbia and the law on the ministries and special organs of administration will be adopted.

Slovenian Independence Articles 'Annulled'

LD1501193791 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1640 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 14 (TANJUG)—The constitutional court of Yugoslavia has annulled three articles of the declaration of sovereignty of the republic of Slovenia, journalists were told by members of the court here on Monday.

The declaration was adopted by the parliament of this Yugoslav Republic in July 1990.

Essentially, the three articles proclaimed sovereignty of the Republic of Slovenia and established the precedence of the republican over the federal legal order.

The journalists were also told that the Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia has provisionally suspended the implementation of a decree by the Republic of Serbia's government introducing an obligatory deposit on goods from Croatia and Slovenia.

Serbia adopted the measures late last year considering that the advocacy by Slovenia and Croatia of a confederal model of Yugoslavia's future organization endangers the unity of the Yugoslav market.

The Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia has also temporarily suspended Serbia's decree introducing antidumping measures and obligatory certificates for imported goods, as well as Slovenia's law imposing duties on the livestock, meat products, milk, and dairy produce purchased outside the territory of the republic.

Croatian Serbs Refuse Tudjman-Milosevic Deal

AU1701150991 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 10 Jan 91 p 12

[TANJUG report: "J. Raskovic Says: 'We Refuse the Tudjman-Milosevic Agreement'"]

[Text] Sibenik—"I am pleased that Serbia and Croatia are talking, this is good, but I am not an optimist, mainly because one should preserve the federal Yugoslavia. A confederation would lead to the breakup and disappearance of Yugoslavia." This was stated by Dr. Jovan Raskovic, president of the Serbian Democratic Party at the news conference in Sibenik, just before the start of

the negotiations in Belgrade. Emphasizing that Serbs in Croatia have a right to such an opinion because of their big contribution towards the formation of the second Yugoslavia, Dr. Raskovic rejects any paternalism from Serbia toward the Serbs in Croatia. "I have no reason not to believe Mr. Milosevic, but he cannot negotiate in our name, he can only prepare the terrain for us. We reject the Tudjman-Milosevic agreement and although I know that this sounds anti-Serbian, we, Serbs in Croatia, reject any guardianship imposed upon us. Without a strong Serbia there would be no Serbian autonomy, but Serbia, in contrast to Croatia and Slovenia, and partially Bosnia-Hercegovina, still lacks a clear political concept," Dr. Raskovic said. He emphasized at the same time that there is no scenario from Serbia, which allegedly started the so-called Serbian uprising in Croatia.

Slovene, Croat Delegations Meet at Otocec

AU1701214491 Zagreb VECERNJI LIST in Serbo-Croatian 10 Jan 91 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Unprecedented Serbian Criminal Act"]

[Text] Otocec—During yesterday's meeting of the delegations of Slovenia and Croatia at Otocec, called as a result of Serbian incursion into the Yugoslav monetary system, both sides considered this move by Serbia as an unprecedented criminal act. Despite the fact that similar incursions occurred in the past, the recent one, which could no longer be concealed because the republics are becoming more independent. It was deemed a flagrant destruction of the unified monetary system of Yugoslavia that will have destructive consequences in the economic and political spheres. This was stated yesterday by the Republican Secretariat for Information of Slovenia.

Both sides assessed the moves of the Federal Government as inefficient and measures of the National Bank of Yugoslavia, i.e. their governor's, as unacceptable, because they in effect "punish" everybody and introduce unnecessary centralization. As far as the future functioning of the federation is concerned, both sides confirmed their views that they should agree on the minimal scope of the federal institutions' functions. In the future, the federation should not have income sources of its own, but should be financed with agreed quotas of money from republics. Further, it was demanded that the functioning and the size of certain federal bodies should be considerably rationalized. Both governments continue to reject the possibility of economic interventions, financial bank rescues, or the export incentives being covered from the federal budget.

During the meeting at Otocec, delegations from Croatia and Slovenia agreed not to recognize any debts made by the federation after 28 December 1990, which is after Serbia formally decided to break in to the monetary system of Yugoslavia.

Knin Serbs Return Stolen Weapons to Authorities

AU1701202391 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Zoran Trajic report from Knin]

[Text] Serbs in Knin are continuing to return the arms that were illegally taken (?in the summer). The SFRY Presidency, however, is expected to carry out in full the order to disarm illegally-armed individuals and formations. Zoran Trajic has the details:

[Trajic] About 85 percent of the arms that citizens illegally took have been returned so far. This act is assessed as a demonstration of good will so that the problems in this part of Yugoslavia can be resolved in a peaceful way. The people, therefore, believe that the Yugoslav People's Army, which was given the task by the SFRY Presidency on 9 January to disarm the illegally-armed individuals and formations within 10 days, can and will carry out the order.

This was also the tone of the demand from Milan Babic, president of the Knin commune, that the constabulary withdraw from their positions around Serbian villages. Babic has demanded this in a communication to the SFRY Presidency.

That there really are constabulary here, even though the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Croatia has been denying this for days, is confirmed by the fact that Jovan Raskovic's vehicle was stopped. It was detained for about 50 minutes and his companion was arrested.

Here is another fact about the constabulary: Despite the initial wages of several thousand German Deutsche marks a month, the pay of the members of this formation has fallen to only 5,000 to 7,000 dinars a month. There is obviously no cash in Croatia either.

Municipal Assembly Report

LD1801000791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1923 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Knin, 16 Jan (TANJUG)—The Knin municipal assembly this evening sent a report to the SFRY Presidency on the realization of its order that reports in detail that today in the Knin municipality today, 85 percent of weapons belonging to the police reserve forces have been returned.

Stressing that the illegal Council of National Resistance for the Protection of Serbs in Croatia has also been disbanded, the report, signed by Knin Municipal Assembly President Milan Babic, calls on the SFRY Presidency to ensure that "certain forces of the YNA [Yugoslav People's Army] should assist the regular police force in Knin in securing vital buildings and roads. Also, in the protection of human lives and peace from possible attack from the illegal paramilitary formations of the so-called constabulary of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs."

Croatian LC Coordination Committee Founded

LD1601104391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0847 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, 16 Jan (TANJUG)—The Coordination Committee for Croatia of the LC [Leauge of Communists] Movement for Yugoslavia was founded in Zagreb at a constitutive session that was attended by 86 delegates. Mirjana Jakelic was elected chairman of the committee, Slobodlan Buncic its vice chairman, and Dusan Utjesinovic its secretary.

The city committee for Zagreb of the LC Movement for Yugoslavia was also founded. Ivo Druzijanic was elected its chairman and Rudi Rajh its vice-chairman.

The committees announced that they would soon hold a news conference that will inform the public on the LC Movement for Yugoslavia activities in Zagreb and Croatia so far and also on the program of their future work.

Croatian Democrats' Leader on Military Affairs

LD1501195991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1540 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Sarajevo, Jan 15 (TANJUG)—Head of the Croatian Democratic Community in the republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina (CDU) Stjepan Kljujic said today his party was opposed to involvement by the military in civilian affairs.

Kljujic said at a news conference the CDU was opposed to the military implementing the Yugoslav Presidency's decree on the disarming of paramilitary units—the party holds that this is in the exclusive competence of the police.

Kljujic also said in case Serbia did not return the primary issue funds it illegally appropriated Bosnia-Hercegovina would take from the same source funds equivalent to its rights.

Kljujic said representatives of Bosnia-Hercegovina would insist on this at today's meeting with Federal Prime Minister Ante Markovic.

Serbia at the very end of 1990 illegally took 18.3 billion dinars (some 1.5 billion dollars) of credits from the direct issue funds of the National Bank of Yugoslavia.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Communists Hold Session

AU1701191791 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 10 Jan 91 p 3

[M. Lucic report: "Responsibility for Yugoslavia"]

[Text] Sarajevo—The expanded Coordination Committee of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia for Bosnia-Hercegovina, held a session in Sarajevo yesterday. Representatives of seven regional initiative committees, the representatives of the communal committees, and all the current party leaders of the Yugoslav People's Army's garrisons on the territory of Bosnia-Hercegovina participated in the committee's work. The meeting was also attended by Dragan Atanasovski, president of the Yugoslav Committee of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia, and Milenko Andjelic, president of the Committee of the Organization of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia in the Yugoslav People's Army of the First Army District.

Dragan Kecman, president of the Republican Committee of the League of Communists-Movement for Yugoslavia presented the information that, to date, this party in Yugoslavia has registered approximately 100,000 members, 33 regional committees, 250 communal committees, over 800 initiative committees, and other basic organizations in the town areas.

Sarajevo, Mostar Regional Radio, TV Plans

LD1601090791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1358 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Mostar, 15 Jan (TANJUG)—Representatives of Sarajevo Radio and Television, the Municipal Assembly of Mostar, and several interested firms signed an agreement today on the foundation of a shareholding company for the construction of the Mostar Radio and Television Center. The regional Mostar Radio and Television Center, which should be completed in one year, will have the most modern technical equipment for the independent production and broadcasting of programs, and for their inclusion in the Yugoslav and European Radio and Television grid. [passage omitted]

Iran Ready To Deliver Oil at World Prices

LD1701223591 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1931 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 16 (TANJUG)—Iranian Economic Affairs and Finance Minister Mohsen Nurbakhsh said here today that Iran was ready to supply Yugoslavia with oil at world prices.

Nurbakhsh, who heads the Iranian delegation at the ninth session of the joint Yugoslav-Iranian committee for Economic, Trade and Technical Cooperation, met in Belgrade today with Yugoslav Minister for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries Franc Horvat.

The two ministers noted with satisfaction that the volume of the two countries' trade had increased to about 350 million dollars, the Yugoslav Government Press Office said. This makes Iran one of Yugoslavia's leading trade partners among the developing countries.

Horvat told his Iranian counterpart that Yugoslav firms are very interested in participating in Iran's development programmes and plans, especially in power supply, the petrochemical industry, other industrial areas and agriculture.

Horvat also said that a more active participation by Iranian firms on the Yugoslav market would be welcome, including the earliest possible opening of Iran's economic office in Yugoslavia.